

ARSENAL and Watford team groups

SHOOT!

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"Villa need new players"

-DENNIS MORTIMER

SPECIAL REPORT
What's wrong with West Brom?

Snoccer games to be won!

Brighton captain Steve Foster tackles Cyrille Regis, the West Bromwich Albion striker.

FEATURED / THOMPSON, ROBSON, DAWSON, BARNES and ALLISON

SPECIAL REPORT

Shock transfers, player unrest, disputes with the Press, falling attendances, serious loss of form. Bill Day examines West Bromwich Albion's alarming three-month ordeal this season . . .

If your best player asks for a transfer two years before the end of his contract is due to expire, it would be a stupid manager who agreed to the sale unless his club desperately needed the money.

That was the situation Ronnie Allen faced shortly after returning to West Bromwich Albion for his second management phase on July 9th this year.

Bryan Robson, the most improved England player this year, made it abundantly clear to his new manager that he wanted to leave West Bromwich Albion after completing almost 200 League games for them.

Allen, understandably, instructed Robson to forget any hopes of a transfer and get on with his career at The Hawthorns.

The protracted dispute between manager and player is now a rather unhappy part of immediate soccer history, ending with the sale of the 24-year-old England midfield star to Manchester United for £1,750,000 on October 1st.

Not satisfied with that transfer coup, Ron Atkinson had also lured Remi Moses, another Albion midfield star, to Old Trafford for £665,000, the transfer going through at the same time as the Robson deal.

Robson claimed that he was determined to leave Albion to further his career. He told friends privately that he stood more chance of gaining the England captaincy if he was attached to a more glamorous outfit.

Whatever criticisms have been levelled at Robson it was clear that he was not motivated by the rake-off he would receive from the transfer, simply fulfilling natural ambitions for one of football's most exciting talents.

Peter Barnes had gone to Leeds United earlier but hardly had the manager had time to recover from the shock of losing key midfield men Robson and Moses than another transfer request landed on his desk.

This time Brendon Batson's signature followed an "I want away" message. "I have no axe to grind with West Bromwich Albion," he said. "I have had a terrific time here since I joined

from Cambridge.

"It is simply something that has developed between the manager and myself, and I cannot see any going back on my decision."

Batson's transfer request clearly shook Allen, for he had only recently signed an extended contract.

The root cause of his problems was a personality clash with the new manager. The right-back had enjoyed a happy relationship with Ron Atkinson, who bought him from Cambridge for £40,000.

Ronnie Allen announced that he only wanted players at Albion who were prepared to give their full commitment.

The back-biting was having a disastrous effect on the team's performances. They gained only one victory in nine games in September, a 4-1 defeat of Swansea inspired by Cyrille Regis's hat-trick, and plunged to 21st place in the table.

Albion's performances perked up in October but the rumblings of discontent continued behind the scenes. Stalwart captain and



CRISIS - BUT WE

centre-half John Wile relinquished his new job as player-coach claiming he could not spare the time to do the job properly on account of his testimonial season.

But was that the sole reason for his surprise resignation?

"I suspect not," reveals Ian Johnson, Editor of the *Birmingham Sports Argus and Evening Mail*. "It would be reasonable to assume there are other reasons, especially as Wile has managerial ambitions."

Meanwhile, Ronnie Allen reacted angrily to a newspaper story in which strikers David Mills and John Deehan claimed there was no future for them at the club.

The West Bromwich Albion manager gagged his players. He has decreed that if they talk to the

Press without his permission they will be fined.

So are West Bromwich Albion facing one of the blackest chapters in their distinguished 96-year history as a professional club?

Despite the sniping, the rotten start Ronnie Allen has had to face, the loss of form, the player unrest, the transfers, the barracking from fans and the disputes with the Press, there is reason to believe that Albion can rise from the sticky mess they find themselves in 14 weeks into the season.

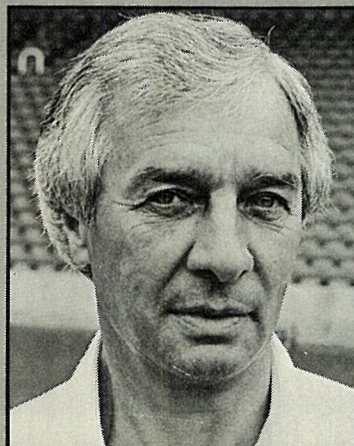
The club have money to burn after selling Robson, Moses and Barnes for roughly £3.3 million and although few clubs can afford to lose such star material as that golden trio, Albion have an abundance of talent pressing in

Ronnie Allen's promise to the fans

RONNIE ALLEN refuses to discuss Ron Atkinson's performance as boss of West Bromwich Albion in the three years he was away from the club in Saudi Arabia and Greece.

"I am more interested in improving this club's position in the League than drinking champagne," says Allen, a clear reference to Atkinson's joy in sipping "bubbly." Ronnie Allen denies he has been under pressure, even in the stormiest times this season, and insists: "I have enjoyed every minute of it."

Asked whether he was happy with



the squad he inherited from Atkinson, he snaps: "Inherited? Most of them were my players in the first place."

He takes issue with those who suggest that Cyrille Regis, Tony Godden, Derek Statham, John Wile, Alistair Robertson, Ally Brown, and Remi Moses were introduced to West Bromwich Albion by anyone other than Mr Ronnie Allen.

"I also bought Laurie Cunningham, who was sold abroad."

But he criticises the weakness of the squad's depth he shook hands with on his return.

"It wasn't impressive," he says. "Now it is much stronger, and once Mackenzie, Jol, King and Whitehead settle you will see a difference in our results."

"I want to bring back respectability. We are getting better every day. I am looking for a good run of results to give the fans, so loyal to us, something to

Cyrille Regis avoids a tackle by West Ham's Billy Bonds.



the wings for a first team chance.

The manager was quick to spot the talent at his disposal, which probably persuaded him to bide his time rather than rush into hasty deals.

His four most important signings are Dutch international

Southampton, operating defensively in that game.

His ambitions are to remain in the back-four where his ball-winning exploits will help seal Albion's often suspect defence.

"I see Martin filling the gap left by Bryan Robson's departure," says Allen emphatically.

He has also been encouraged by Regis' return to form. Two hat-tricks in the first two months testify to his sharpness again, but Albion desperately need a winger to exploit the black striker's power fully.

Mail sports journalist Ian Johnson makes a personal plea to Albion fans to remain loyal and give Ronnie Allen time to repair the damage.

"Ronnie has been under severe pressure," says Johnson. "It's definitely got to him, which explains the rather rash step he took to gag players."

"I am sure also that Bert Millichip, Chairman of Albion and Chairman of the F.A., is aware of the fact that the traditionally welcoming Albion is not as happy as it used to be.

"But there are too many good officials and good players for them to remain in the doldrums."

The average home League attendance at The Hawthorns for the first six matches was a miserable 16,000, Albion's lowest First Division average for 66 years,

a figure reflecting disenchantment at the turnstiles.

The fans can blame Ronnie Allen if they like, but a manager is only as good as his players.

The salvation for Ronnie Allen and West Bromwich Albion, who have been Champions only once and not for 61 years, could be the quality of the players who remain faithful to the club.

Players of the calibre of Derek Statham, Cyrille Regis, Gary Owen, Steve Mackenzie, Martyn Bennett, Andy King, Martin Jol, Tony Godden and John Wile.

Pack up your troubles and start smiling Albion, and remember the words of former chairman Jim Gaunt which shook the banquetting hall after W.B.A. had won the F.A. Cup for the fifth time in 1968.

"Winning the Cup was fine, but winning the League Championship is even better!"

Albion may be facing something of a crisis, but SHOOT backs them to emerge a better club... one that will find belated and welcomed success.

HONOURS

First Division Champions: 1919-20.

Second Division Champions: 1901-02, 1910-11.

F.A. Cup winners: 1888, 1892, 1931, 1954, 1968.

League Cup winners: 1965-66.

BACK ALBION

Martin Jol from FC Twente for £250,000, Andy King from Q.P.R. for £400,000, Bristol City's Clive Whitehead and Gerry Summers, a coach who once played in Albion's junior teams before extending his career at Sheffield United and Walsall and going into management, first at Oxford United and then at Gillingham.

Summers will be a trusty lieutenant for Ronnie Allen, who must wonder where his friends are in all the frenetic activity that heralded his appointment.

Summers makes no bones about his task when he says: "We must improve our League position."

Jol, capped three times by the Dutch for his abrasive qualities, has settled quickly. He made his League debut in the 1-1 draw with

cheer about.

"The players are working marvellously together and Gerry Summers, our new coach, is making a big difference. We worked together when I managed Wolves."

He has detected a notable change in the attitude of players since his departure from Britain to foreign fields.

"The power has shifted from management to the players. That disappoints me. But here we're a happy family. I have not gagged the players from talking to the Press. I have warned them to be very careful about what they say."

The players are working hard to improve their goal-punch.

"We've made dozens of openings this season but not scored," says Allen. "The way ahead is to work harder and play quality football. Our fans deserve that after what they've been through this season."

Nightmare inheritance

SOME WILL say that Ronnie Allen was on a hiding to nothing when he stepped across the threshold at West Bromwich Albion in the summer to grasp the management reins of the First Division club for the second time.

The surroundings were welcoming and familiar, for it was here at his beloved Hawthorns where his playing and management careers had blossomed.

Many of the fans who stand on the terraces today remember the two-goal burst from Allen (one a penalty) which sent Preston North End crashing to a 3-2 defeat in the 1954 F.A. Cup Final.

He vowed to return to the Albion in a management capacity when his playing career ended, and duly achieved his objective after cutting his teeth in that role at Wolves, Athletic Bilbao, Sporting Lisbon and Walsall.

But if the surroundings were familiar to a sun-tanned and fit Ronnie Allen on his return in July he was ill-prepared for the heavily demanding task of following Ron Atkinson, the big, expansive Albion boss known affectionately as "Champagne Charlie".

Atkinson had guided Albion to fourth place in the First Division in 1980-81 before leaving for Manchester United.

Ronnie Allen's task was to fill the void, a role he has found chillingly difficult to achieve faced with transfer requests, player power, a demoralised staff, and growing impatience on the terraces.

Remember McGuinness

The sad fact of life is that Ronnie Allen has inherited the most thankless task in football. That of following a man who became almost a legend.

Allen's circumstances will draw sympathy from a distinguished group of League managers who have endured the same problems in their careers.

Remember what happened to Wilf McGuinness, who tried to run Manchester United after the legendary Matt Busby retired? He failed dismally and Busby, now Sir Matt, was recalled. Frank O'Farrell suffered the same fate when he tried to succeed Busby.

Brian Clough, highly fancied to succeed Ron Greenwood as England manager, lasted just 44 days at Leeds United before the spectre of Don Revie, his predecessor at Elland Road, proved too large a cross to bear.

Terry Neill was never truly accepted by the Tottenham board, players and fans in the all-conquering wake of Bill Nicholson, and even Liverpool, perhaps the best organised of all English clubs, must have wondered how on earth Bob Paisley could take over from Bill Shankly.

So this is the burden Ronnie Allen faces in replacing the highly popular and talented Ron Atkinson.

W.B.A.'s fans would be wise to bear this fact in mind before they start to criticise one of Albion's favourite sons.

Never quit!

Gordon Milne, Coventry's executive-manager, is a gentle natured man who believes in approaching the job in hand with dignity.

So when Mr Milne raises his voice in an effort to drive some commonsense into his players, he deserves an audience.

He has attacked the attitude of a group of Coventry players who want transfers. He directed his remarks at Tom English, Steve Jacobs, Peter Bodak and Les Sealey, who have all asked for a move.

His message to them is one which should be considered carefully by every footballer in the English League.

SHOOT view!

"They seem to think a transfer is the easy way out — but it's not," says Mr Milne. "They should get their sleeves rolled up and battle."

"We have not had a single enquiry about any of these players. Nobody is falling over themselves to sign them."

"Some of them have got to start waking up and realising what it is all about. If they are on the list for a month and nothing happens they should perhaps start thinking in terms of making a sacrifice in salary if they want the privilege of staying on the list."

"At the moment we are the only club who want these players and are prepared to pay their salaries. But because they are not in the first team they think the easy way out is a transfer. It is not."

"The only team they have a chance of getting into at the moment is ours — but they have got to be prepared to fight and work for the opportunity."

"If that challenge is too much for them they should start taking a closer look at themselves and their attitude. All they are doing is making life easy for the men in possession of the first team places."

"They have all played in the first team in the past — and played well. So they should be taking a look at the situation and realising it might just be their own fault they are not in the team now."

"Asking for a move in the present climate of the transfer market is not the answer."

WHO are the only First Division club yet to appear on television this season?

They are Coventry City, who refuse to change their strip for the cameras. Remember they are sponsored by Talbot and the large T is part of the design on their strip.

Leeds star reforms

GARY HAMSON, the 22-year-old Leeds midfielder rated a firebrand last season because of his long list of suspensions, is now a reformed character and that applies to both his temperament and playing style.

He reformed himself regarding his brushes with officialdom by pledging that: "I'll work hard to keep out of trouble." And he has certainly done that.

Leeds boss Allan Clarke says: "We have been working on his play, too. He's a good player going forward and we are making good use of that attribute."

Best's pulling power

ONE-TIME superstar George Best made his first appearance for an Irish League club when he turned out for Portadown in a midweek "friendly" with Glenavon, at Shamrock Park.

Still idolised by many Northern Ireland fans, it was hardly surprising that genius George pulled in 5,000-plus crowd, one of the biggest-ever afternoon attendances for a non-competitive game between Ulster outfits.



A UNITED NATIONS DELEGATION? Politicians at the Commonwealth Conference? Wrong on both counts. Believe it or not, this colourful group of gentlemen are football fans. They support the Nigerian national team.

METAL MICKEY'S DEBUT?

IPSWICH manager Bobby Robson is considering buying a goalscorer whose thunderous shooting is never off target — but First Division goalkeepers needn't lose sleep.

The striker is a robot goalscoring machine which has been demonstrated at Portman Road and which its Swedish inventor claims is the perfect training device for goalkeepers.

The machine can be primed to fire footballs at any speed, angle or height.

COPPELL'S BACK IN FAVOUR

STEVE Coppel, the flying winger Manchester United's manager was prepared to sell, is back in favour at Old Trafford.

Ron Atkinson awarded Coppel the unofficial "man of the match" award after United's 2-1 triumph over Liverpool.

Coppel's job was to shadow Phil Neal whenever Liverpool gained possession. Atkinson believes that most of Liverpool's attacks stem from Neal's cultured feet. "This meant Steve switching from his normal right wing position to the left and he did a great job. He pressured Neal into all kinds of mistakes and certainly stopped Liverpool using him as their launching pad," explains Atkinson.

United's manager has given Coppel a roving commission since deciding not to sell him after the England winger's plea to stay at his beloved Old Trafford.



NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



CYRILLE REGIS' hat-trick for Albion against Birmingham City at St Andrews was the second time a visiting player had scored three goals there and still not finished on the winning side. Ian Wallace scored three for Nottingham Forest in his team's 4-3 defeat at St Andrews in September and Regis scored all the goals in a 3-3 draw last month.

This was Regis' second hat-trick of the season and it included his 50th League goal for Albion.

DID YOU KNOW? That Celtic were formed in November, 1887 with the main objective being to raise funds for meals for needy children of Glasgow's East End.

Ambitious 'Blades'

SHEFFIELD UNITED's ultimate target for junior supporters is to run the biggest junior club in the League. No fewer than 5,000 members is the aim. They are well on their way with nearly 1,000 registered already. Not bad for a Fourth Division Club which looked to be in such despair at the end of last season.

The club has also launched its own impressive newspaper, called *Blades News*. 50,000 copies were given away free to inform supporters about the club and its plans.

● The new Manchester United physiotherapist, Jim McGregor, isn't going to be short of things to do in the coming months.

McGregor, who started work at Old Trafford at the end of October, has accepted an invitation from the Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham to keep their small squad on their feet. Not bad for a Scotsman!

Fan worship

DUNDEE UNITED are donating 100 complimentary tickets to local schools for every home game this season in the hope of stimulating interest among youngsters and encouraging them to become long-term supporters. Meadowbank Thistle will not charge admission to wives and girlfriends who accompany their menfolk to home games at Meadowbank Stadium.

FRANCIS BURNS, given a free by Preston, has joined Shamrock Rovers. The former Manchester United defender was recommended to Rovers by Nobby Stiles, who is a brother-in-law of Johnny Giles, Rovers boss.

No reprieve

MIDDLESBROUGH and Northern Ireland international winger Terry Cochrane (right) will have to complete a three-match international ban.

Cochrane and a Swedish opponent were sent-off after a World Cup clash in the summer. Cochrane appealed against his sentence under the mistaken impression that his opponent had won a reprieve.

A Northern Ireland spokesman said: "FIFA do not allow appeals. The Swedish player received only a one-match ban."



DON GIVENS, granted a testimonial by the F.A.I. on reaching the 50-cap mark, will stage his game in Dublin next August.

Manchester United, Givens' first club, will play an All-Ireland selection. Don, who is Eire's all-time top scorer with 19 goals, won his 55th cap against France last month. He is now doing well with Neuchatel Xamax in the Swiss First Division.

Generous Burridge

CHARLTON teenager Paul Walsh has been receiving rave reviews this season and had a glowing testimonial from a fellow professional the other week.

Q.P.R. keeper John Burridge had broken Charlton's hearts with a string of fine saves in their 2-1 victory, but Budgie was most impressed by Walsh.

"At the end of the game I sprinted over to the youngster," says Budgie. "I hadn't really seen Paul before, but he looked one hell of a player."

"I told him that if he works hard, keeps his feet on the ground and listens to people he can go a long way in the game."

CHIC BATES must have had some mixed feelings when Shrewsbury Town boss Graham Turner asked him to take over as team captain.

Reason? Shrewsbury's two previous captains, Jake King and Colin Griffin, have both been injured while leading the side.

King is now expected to be side-lined for a considerable time following a stomach operation.

Stein praises young players

SCOTLAND'S manager Jock Stein is pleased with one aspect of Scottish life where there is no recession.

The supply of young players has never been better, he claims.

He is hoping to improve the system of Under-21 matches, and is closely examining the gulf which exists between that age group and the full international side.

"We lack a halfway house between the Under 21's and the full international side," he says. "It is something I would like to see filled by 'B' internationals, which other countries arrange."

He is also adamant on another contentious point — Anglo-Scots.

Stein says: "As long as I am in charge I will never exclude Scots just because they are playing in England. But it is heartening when home based players break through."

Briefly

● Brian Clough works in strange ways. The Forest manager brought off John Robertson in a recent game. When the Scot asked why, Clough simply said: "Go and put on the tea."

● Nicky Reid celebrated his 21st birthday with Manchester City's Junior Blues' Stretford branch. Kevin Reeves and Harry Goodwin, City's former chief scout, were also guests.

● What price loyalty?

DAVE CLEMENT, former Queens Park Rangers, Bolton and England full-back, has joined Wimbledon on a free transfer from the Lancashire Second Division club. He made his debut for The Dons in their 1-1 home draw against Exeter.

Clement played five times for England, his last appearance being against Holland in 1977.

JIM SMITH'S RIOT ACT

BIRMINGHAM City boss Jim Smith is angry at his hot headed players, who he accuses of costing the St Andrews club a higher place in the table. Already this season two Birmingham stars have been sent off and another has been banned for picking up 20 points.

That's the sort of record that has Smith fuming: "It's bad enough having to play tough games but it is

made even worse when key players are missing because of a ban.

"I have to read them the riot act and I shall continue to hammer it home to them. I just hope it gets through to the players."

The men who have made Smith mad are Mark Dennis and Kevan Broadhurst who got their marching orders and Kevin Dillon who collected a 20 point ban.



...OLD PALS ACT

COVENTRY'S highly rated England Under-21 right-back Danny Thomas (left), believes that having the Young England manager as his club boss can boost his international chances.

Thomas says: "I'm sure if I am doing well enough our manager Dave Sexton will recommend me."

And 19-year-old Thomas has quickly become a big fan of Sexton's coaching skills.

The fleet-footed full-back said: "There's no doubt he is a top coach with so many ideas."

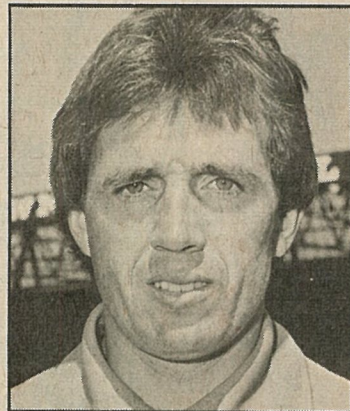
"In fact I think we are being coached in the style the international side use."

That's something else that could help Thomas break through into the full squad for, as he says: "When you are not with one of the really big clubs it is harder to gain recognition."

BEAT THIS for honesty... listen to Ken Brown after Norwich's 3-0 defeat at Watford.

Norwich had four first team men missing and Brown was entitled to plead sympathy for his team's bad performance.

But boss Brown said: "There's no point in bleating about injuries. That's all part of the game. We have got to make do with the players we have left and get on with it."



'They won't cap me'
—COOPER

GOALKEEPER Paul Cooper is Ipswich Town's only uncapped regular first team player.

But his Dutch midfield colleague Arnold Muhren insists: "He certainly would be an international if he had not been born an Englishman."

"If he had been Dutch he would have won 50 caps by now."

Cooper (27), who was signed from Birmingham City for £20,000 eight years ago, said: "I have been asked if I have any relatives who would qualify me to play for Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, but my family is English through and through."

"I was disappointed not to win an England 'B' cap last season. Now I don't think I will be capped, and if one does come along it will be a pleasant surprise."

"It gave me special satisfaction to be voted the club's player of the year by supporters last season. I just wish they picked the England team!"

GERRY SUMMERS is happy to be back at the club where his footballing career started, West Bromwich Albion.

Former Oxford and Gillingham boss Summers has moved in at Albion as chief coach and he recalled: "When I was at Albion as a player there were 13 teams and I must have played in all of them."

"The way football is structured now management is a two man job. I will be able to work with the players in day to day training and that will let manager Ronnie Allen get on with looking for new players and sorting out contracts."

And Summers sees the way ahead as the way Ipswich have done things.

He said: "They weren't all that fashionable a few years ago but by going out and winning trophies they have become one of the top clubs."

game for the Molineux men when they played at Swansea recently. The full-back joined Wolves from Huddersfield in 1968.

● Fulham's new physiotherapist is Derek Wright who succeeds John Clinkard. Clinkard left Fulham to take up a similar post with Everton last month.

● Halifax Town have signed goalkeeper Lee Smelt from Nottingham Forest for £10,000.

Football League secretary Graham Kelly says some of today's contracts are "epics" with clauses running into four pages.

Players' demands are increasing all the time, but you'd be hard pressed to beat the player who had a loyalty clause built into his contract — which started after ten games.

● Veteran Wolves full-back Derek Parkin has broken the long standing record for League appearances held by the legendary Billy Wright.

Parkin hit the high spots with his 492nd League

EVEN the small clubs are receiving sponsorship. Dover have received a four figure sum from Townsend Thoresen, the leading car ferry operator.

The cheque marks the second part of a two-year sponsorship deal with the Southern League Club.

Under the agreement Townsend Thoresen is featured on the club's shirts, club vehicles and on billboards around the ground.



FIGHT LIKE BELL

PAUL POWER, Manchester City's captain, suggests his team-mates should gain inspiration from the way former "Blues" favourite Colin Bell played football.

"When it comes down to sheer graft, I reckon we can take a look over our shoulders at one of City's favourite sons — Colin Bell (left)," says Power.

"Colin's brilliant career at Maine Road was not all milk and honey. He had bad patches just like everybody else, but he would grit his teeth to make sure they didn't last long."

Bell's attitude is a lesson to all today's City's players, suggests Power after a worrying loss of form by the big Northern club.

L EAGUE Champions seldom find a bed of roses upon which they can rest the next season.

Liverpool's remarkable consistency and ability to challenge for honours each season is the exception rather than the rule. Motivation after a major success is never easily achieved.

Villa need new faces

SAYS DENNIS MORTIMER

BUT HAVING covered that excuse, Aston Villa's poor start in the defence of their Championship title was hardly inspiring. Three wins from their first twelve League games — more than a quarter of the entire season — was nowhere near the form which carried Villa to their first title in 71 years back in May.

Villa remained silent for much of the time early in the season. Harsh words, no doubt, were spoken, but strictly in private. Yet captain Dennis Mortimer broke his silence to make some stinging criticisms of the Villa side.

Mortimer said: "The attitude of two or three players has been that we have won the title one year — we have only got to go out and stand around and we will win it again. They think it will be alright on the day.

"Things haven't worked out that way because we have found that teams we have met this season have been more difficult to break down.

Work-rate

"They know our game and what it consists of. Teams have matched us for work-rate, which was a feature of our game last season.

"Obviously, we knew there would be problems going into the season as Champions, but we didn't have the right attitude. That was the main problem."

Mortimer's warning to his colleagues is clear enough. "If we don't improve straightaway, the gap between ourselves and the leading teams will become too great for us to close."

All somewhat depressing reading for Villa fans. Early season surprises must have been a shock to the Villa faithful, too. Winger Tony Morley, one of the key men in last season's Championship success, was dropped for a couple of vital matches while striker Gary Shaw was out injured for many of the early games.

Intriguingly, Mortimer believes manager Ron Saunders may have



Villa manager Ron Saunders (right) has not been happy with his team's performances this season, and dropped winger Tony Morley (above, dark strip) following a couple of unconvincing performances for the current League Champions. But Morley has now forced his way back into the team.

erred by not buying a couple of players in the summer. Andy Blair did arrive from Coventry, but Mortimer says: "Maybe we needed two or three new men, class players, to threaten the first team places of everyone involved last season.

"I have noticed that it's a trick Liverpool have used in recent years. No matter what they win, they tend to buy someone during the close season — and first team players have no chance of resting on their laurels when the new campaign gets under way.

"Competition for places is always healthy."

It is clear that the lack of effort by some of his colleagues angers Mortimer. "If you don't put yourself about, you are going to catch a cold. We haven't hit the heights as we did in 1980-81, but last season wasn't just a one-off. It was the accumulation of playing as a team.

'Missing'

"We are all playing as individuals at the moment, and we aren't functioning as a unit. Solo efforts don't win titles. This is the factor which has been missing so far this season."

And Mortimer's warning to the players who don't get it right? "It's not up to me, it's the boss' task," he says. "But speaking personally, I would have thought he could only stick with the players he has got for so long. If things are not going right, he will have to make changes. We don't need telling the task in hand — if we don't do that job, the boss will have to sit down and do something about it."

Mortimer insists that most of the side is suffering: "because certain departments are finding it difficult to keep a grip on a game."

He adds: "We have done a lot more running in midfield than last season because we are not being hard enough, and not winning

enough tackles in the right positions. We are allowing teams to play against us. We have been under a lot more pressure than last season."

All of which goes to prove it's harder to keep the title than actually win it. Aston Villa, it seems, are the latest Championship winning side to discover that.

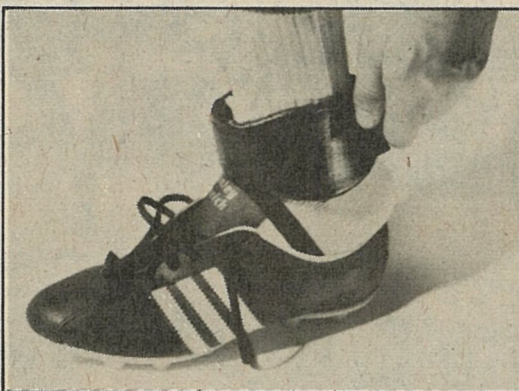
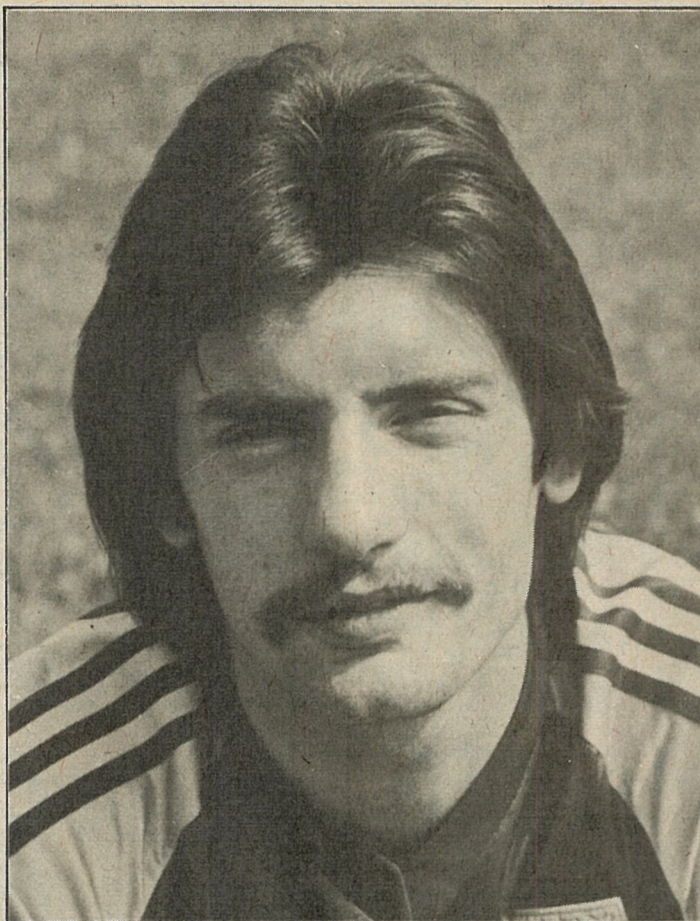
I DON'T PLAY FOR KICKS

Not the Kicks that hurt
says Alan Devonshire
of West Ham and England

Here's something that's
going to be of interest
to all you footballers –
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give me added support
round the ankles too. I'm
sure you'll find they will
help your game.



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avoid those painful ankle injuries
which can so easily occur when your
opponent gets his tackle just a little
too high.

These revolutionary new ankle
protectors can be fitted in seconds
and once in position you'll forget
you're wearing them.

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After gaining a 1-1 draw away to Dundalk, Spurs were expected to swamp the Irishmen in the return at White Hart Lane in the Cup-Winners' Cup. But after a night of frustration, the Spurs fans had to content themselves with this solitary goal from Garth Crooks.



No joy for Arsenal's Raphael Meade as Belgian part-timers Winterslag complete a UEFA Cup shut out at Highbury (left).

EURO

Dinamo Berlin skipper Frank Terletzki (far left) celebrates the only goal of the tie against Aston Villa in the European Cup, but it wasn't enough to wipe out Villa's first-leg advantage.



After a humiliating home defeat in the first-leg of their UEFA Cup tie, Southampton at least saved some face with a goalless draw in the away leg in front of 60,000 partisan fans. Here Saints striker Mike Channon puts pressure on Sporting defender Eurico.



Liverpool skipper Phil Thompson heads clear from AZ 67 Alkmaar's Jos Jonker to help his side through to the last eight of the European Cup on a 5-4 aggregate.

FEVER!

Bayern Munich, expected to be the greatest threat to Villa and Liverpool in the European Cup, eased their way past Portuguese Champions Benfica in the Second Round. Here Bayern's Dieter Hoeness (dark strip) blasts his side's first goal in the home tie.



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KEVIN Reeves fears his immediate chances of a return to the England international squad are just about nil.

The £1m striker, whom John Bond promised he could make an England regular within a couple of seasons at Maine Road, admits sadly: "I have no chance of getting back at the moment the way I'm playing."

"I admit I am envious when players from our club and others go off to join the England squad. I'd love to be there with them, giving everything for England."

"But the fact that I'm not there is just something I have got to accept."

"I knew I had no chance of joining the squad for the Hungary game. I couldn't expect a call as soon as that. I have to look to the long term."

And that is a startling admission for the million pound man who arrived at Manchester City from Norwich in a blaze of publicity.

Since he reached Manchester about 18 months ago, Reeves has found it hard to sustain consistent, top class form. And he is puzzled as to the reason.

"Lots of people say different things, give different reasons," he says.

"I know my form has been up and down. I am not consistent."

"I am normally a slow starter to the season, but I haven't been playing particularly well anyway this time."

"It's not just a matter of goalscoring. I get more satisfaction out of playing well and not scoring, rather than the other way round."

"All I can do is keep plodding away, and hope it changes. It may do, quite suddenly. Perhaps a few goals would help change things."

A crucial factor in Reeves' loss of England form has been his inability to establish a partnership. Phil Boyer and Trevor Francis have

'England don't want me'

admits KEVIN REEVES

been sidelined by injury for long periods and David Bennett was sold to Cardiff.

How did Reeves view John Bond's original remark about making him an England regular?

"At the time, it was very flattering to hear that," says Reeves.

"It's nice to hear things like that."

"I don't think the boss meant he would make me an England regular straightaway. He was concerned about getting me back into the England squad."

"It is my own fault I came out of the squad in the first place."

'Shocking'

"I did quite well in the first game I played, against Bulgaria, in 1980. But I was shocking in my second game — against Northern Ireland, at Wembley, in May 1980. I didn't play at all well and I felt then that maybe my chances were gone."

"It is hard to get into the squad in the first place, so it's going to be doubly hard to get back into it now I am out."

"I don't think I've even been in the reckoning for the full squad since then."

"I need to have a good season in which I play consistently well — that is the only way to justify getting a place in the England squad."

Reeves, of course, hopes things turn for the better very soon.

"I hope I shall be an England regular sometime in the future," he says.

"I would love that, and I think about it a lot. But to be that, you have to be very consistent and there's no way I am at the moment."

"Everyone says you get more consistent and more confident as you get older, so I can only hope that applies to me."

"A year ago I felt time was on my side. Now, at the age of 24, I'm not quite so sure."

'Figure'

"Maybe it goes against me a little bit, because I'm not a Frank Worthington type figure — someone who stands out on the field. But I cannot change that. I enjoy the role I play, the kind of style. I wouldn't want to change it anyway."

Manchester City's erratic start to the season hasn't helped Reeves find consistency.

But there is no doubt that the expensive striker has to perform well on a regular basis before he can hope to resume his international career.

Reeves, of course, knows that as well as anyone.

The problem is, doing so as quickly as possible.



Reeves goes close on his full international debut for England against the Bulgarians at Wembley last year.



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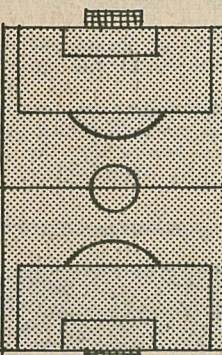
1

1. While two players are chasing the ball you notice one holding off his opponent with an outstretched arm. Should you award (a) an indirect free-kick, or (b) a direct free-kick?



2

2. What do the following dimensions on the field of play indicate. (a) 7.32x2.44, and (b) 16.50x40.32?



3

3. From a throw-in the ball goes directly into goal. Should you (a) have the throw retaken, (b) award a goal, or (c) award a goal-kick?



MATCH POINT

● At the taking of a penalty, a referee must watch out for quite a number of possible infringements. During the Barnet v Stafford Rangers game, I awarded two penalties against the home side. The first was saved, but the second had to be retaken because the goalkeeper had moved before the kick had been taken. In this situation the 'keeper can move his body, but his feet must remain still until contact with the ball has been made. The 'keeper must also stand on the goal-line. You will find that most referees position their linesman on the goal-line to ensure the 'keeper is standing in the correct place and also, of course, that the ball actually crosses the line. By taking a wide angle, the referee can watch for both the goalkeeper moving too early and for encroachment within the area by players from either side. Remember, if a member of the defending side is at fault and the penalty is saved, the kick must be retaken. Likewise it must be taken again if the offender is a member of the attacking side and the penalty is successfully converted.

ANSWERS

1. Award a direct free-kick (b).
2. Increase. Referees have to take quick action to stamp it out.
3. This type of offence is on the area. Think metric! 3. Award a goal-kick (c).
(a) the goal and (b) the penalty-

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

IS this the season when Watford finally shed their Second Division clothes to shroud themselves in the amazing First Division dreamcoat?

"Amazing" is the operative word for the transformation of the club from small time no-hopers just off the M1 Motorway to likely First Division candidates.

Graham Taylor, Watford's young, thrusting manager, has embraced the club with the Midas touch since his arrival in 1977, though even at this stage of the club's development the fans at Anfield, Goodison Park, Maine Road and Old Trafford will find it hard to believe they might have to consult ordinance survey maps and refer to pathfinding compasses to travel to a stadium nestling between terrace houses.

Elton John, Watford's chairman, looks to ensure that the faithful followers of the high and mighty clubs will find the open air theatre he almost prefers to the showbusiness stages he graces around the world.

Watford's remarkable progress is due partly to Elton's initiative but also to the blossoming managerial skills of Graham Taylor, a little-known full-back with Grimsby Town and Lincoln City, who nurtured an ambition to move into management when his legs could no longer keep up with flying wingers.

Taylor's arrival at

Watford in the summer of 1977 after leading Lincoln to the Fourth Division Championship in 1976 was the prelude to a remarkable partnership forged between an ambitious manager and a world famous pop star which has flourished beyond their wildest dreams.

Watford have nudged the First Division gates ajar for the first three months of the season — and everything they have achieved suggest they could burst through them next spring.

In the past they have made a

habit of shaking First Division clubs. Remember their run to the Semi-Finals of the 1969-70 F.A. Cup, Luther Blissett's two-goal matchwinning blast against Manchester United at Old Trafford in the 1978-79 League Cup, and last season's 7-1 thrashing of Southampton, and 4-1 defeat of Nottingham Forest in the League Cup.

This season, things are different. Their League performances bear the maturity and a passionate desire to join the elite.

The team is superbly balanced. A combination of youthful skills down the flanks from the highly promising Nigel Callaghan and the "find" of the season, John Barnes, who was playing local League football last season, uncom-

promising strength in defence from Steve Sims, Steve Terry and Ian Bolton, vision from midfield by courtesy of Kenny Jackett, Les Taylor, and a killing instinct in front of goal.

If there is a chink in Watford's armour it can be found at the spearhead of their marauding army where Poskett, Blissett, Armstrong, and Jenkins have enjoyed varying degrees of success without setting the Second Division alight.

Last season's promoted clubs, West Ham, Swansea and Notts County, were blessed with good strikers, David Cross and Paul Goddard for The Hammers, Leighton and Robbie James at Swansea and, to a lesser extent, Trevor

Rocketmen!

THAT'S ELTON'S WATFORD HEROES



The form of young players such as winger Nigel Callaghan (left) has excited Watford manager Graham Taylor and his experienced assistant Bertie Mee (below). Now the Hertfordshire club firmly believes it is ready to challenge for a First Division place for the first time in their history.

Christie and Iain McCulloch at County.

Only three League defeats in their first 13 games was clearly promotion-winning form and compelled manager Graham Taylor to say: "I really do believe that the more everybody thinks positively and realises that his club is going up into the First Division sooner or later, then the better it will be."

"I am now saying that this club has a base both on and off the field to take it into the First Division."

Rocket Man was one of Elton's early smash hits, and Watford Football Club could be his latest.

HONOURS

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Fourth Division Champions: 1977-78



WATTFORD



BACK ROW (left to right): Les Taylor, Kenny Jackett, Steve Sherwood, Martin Patching, Eric Steele, Mick Henderson, Wilf Rostron.

MIDDLE ROW: Ian Bolton, Steve Sims, Graham Taylor (manager), Billy Hails (trainer/physio), Sam Ellis (coach), Steve Terry, Malcolm Poskett.

FRONT ROW: Gary Donnellan (standing), Luther Blissett, Keith Pritchett, Pat Rice, Nigel Callaghan, Gerry Armstrong, Ray Train (standing).

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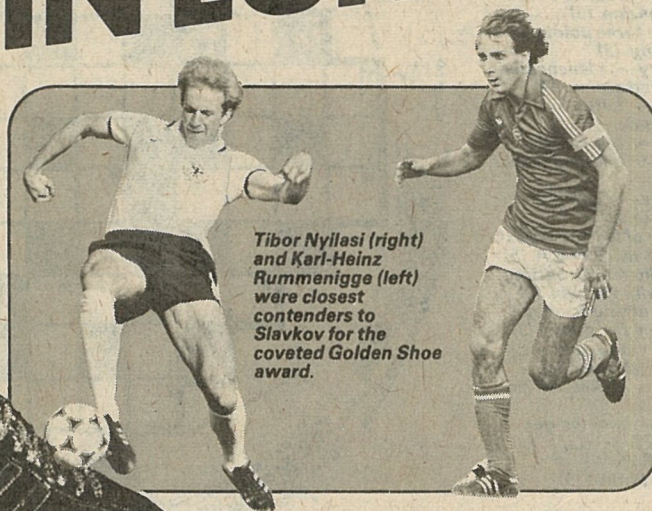


KEVIN DILLON
Birmingham City

SHOOT!

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Golden Shoe Awards 1981

GEORGI BOY TOPS IN EUROPE



Tibor Nyilasi (right) and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (left) were closest contenders to Slavkov for the coveted Golden Shoe award.

award last season. Is he known to Georgi?

"Yes, of course, I have heard of him. Didn't he score the goal which won his club Tottenham the Cup?

"But my favourite goalscorer is West Germany's Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the third placed scorer in this year's Golden Shoe.

"I admire him tremendously for his overall ability. He is so skilful and elegant he moves like a ballet dancer.

"I read a great deal of Kevin Keegan when he was playing for Hamburger SV, but not so much now he's back in English football.

"Perhaps one day I will play against Keegan and England at Wembley. That is one of my great ambitions."

most important city in Bulgaria? "A dream," he says. "It makes me so proud to achieve such an honour, 12 years after my countryman Jekov from CSKA Sofia won the award.

"It is also a tribute to everyone connected with my club. My aim is now to win it again next year. Perhaps people will then know who I am."

Steve Archibald won the English

GEORGI SLAVKOV — Who's he? That was the reaction of most people when it was announced he'd won the Adidas/France Football Golden Shoe awarded to the top scorer in Europe.

The 1981 award was a fitting climax to a sensational season for the 23-year-old Bulgarian international who scored 31 goals in 30 League matches and helped his home town club Trakya Plovdiv win the Bulgarian Cup for the first time in their history.

Included in that total — the smallest ever to win the Golden Shoe — was the four he had to score in the last game of the season against Spartak Plevne in order to win the award.

Does the fact Georgi is something of a mystery man to most outside Bulgaria upset him?

"Not at all," he told SHOOT, when the presentations were made at a special ceremony in Paris. "It does not surprise me that I am not well known.

"I am only young and Bulgarian football does not get much coverage abroad."

Despite his 73 goals for his club and 12 in 29 full international appearances for Bulgaria, Georgi has never previously figured prominently in any major list of goalscorers ... until now.

So what does it take to become top striker in Europe?

"A lot of things," says Georgi. "First you must be very fit, be able to kick with both feet, be good in the air and work hard on improving your game."

Just what does the Golden Shoe mean to Slavkov who was born and raised in Plovdiv, the second

Other Golden Shoe award winners — 1981.

Second — Silver Shoe
TIBOR NYILASI, 26-year-old captain of Ferencvaros, who won the Hungarian Championship last season. He scored 30 goals in 34 League matches. Tibor has also scored 18 goals in 45 matches for Hungary.

Third — Bronze Shoe
KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE with 29 goals in 34 League matches for Bayern Munich. European Footballer of the Year 1980 and scored 14 goals in 44 appearances for West Germany.

CLUB AWARDS — 1981
IPSWICH TOWN collected the Inter-Club trophy awarded to Europe's top team on the basis of performances throughout last season in domestic and European competitions. Second were Dutch club AZ 67 ... third Bayern Munich.

Previous Golden Shoe award winners

1968 — Eusebio (Benfica); 1969 — Jekov (CSKA Sofia); 1970 — Gerd Muller (Bayern Munich); 1971 — Skoblar (Olympique Marseille); 1972 — Gerd Muller — (Bayern Munich); 1973 — Eusebio (Benfica); 1974 — Yazalde (Sporting Lisbon); 1975 — Georgescu (Dynamo Bucharest); 1976 — Kafas (Omonia Nicosie); 1977 — Georgescu (Dynamo Bucharest); 1978 — Krankl (Rapid Vienna); 1979 — Kist (AZ 67); 1980 — Van den Bergh (SV Lierse).

Previous European Inter-Club winners
1968 — Benfica/AC Milan; 1969 Ajax; 1970 — Celtic; 1971 — Ajax/Arsenal; 1972 — Ajax; 1973 — Ajax; 1974 — Bayern Munich/Feyenoord; 1975 — Borussia Moenchengladbach; 1976 — Liverpool; 1977 — Juventus; 1978 — Liverpool; 1979 — Nottingham Forest; 1980 — Real Madrid.

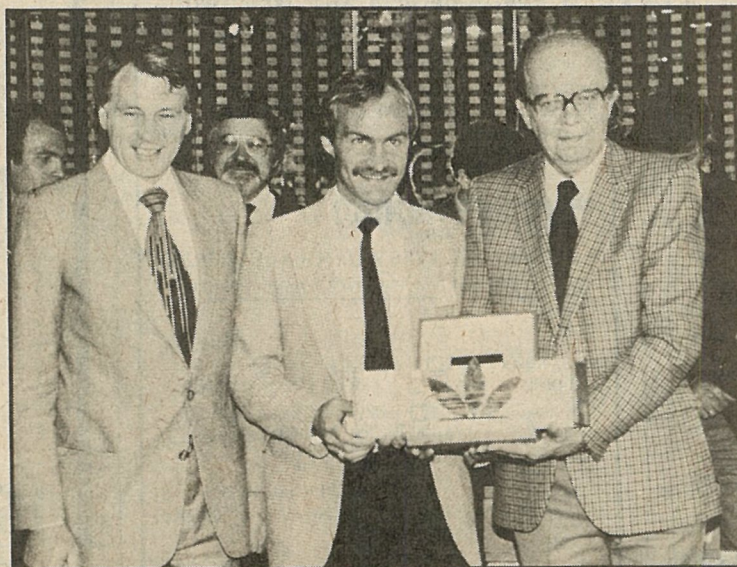
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'Golden Shoe' 82

SHOOT, Britain's biggest selling soccer magazine, has joined Adidas, the world renowned sports gear manufacturer, to present the English version of the exciting "Golden Shoe" Awards at the end of this season.

The fabulous awards go to the League's leading scorers in the four Divisions. Last season's winners were: First Division Steve Archibald (Tottenham); Second Division David Cross (West Ham); Third Division Tony Kellow (Exeter City); Fourth Division Robbie Cooke (Peterborough).

Don't miss future issues of SHOOT for details of this season's "Golden Shoe" awards.



Ipswich manager Bobby Robson and skipper Mick Mills receive the Inter-Club team award from Jacques Ferran, director of France Football magazine.

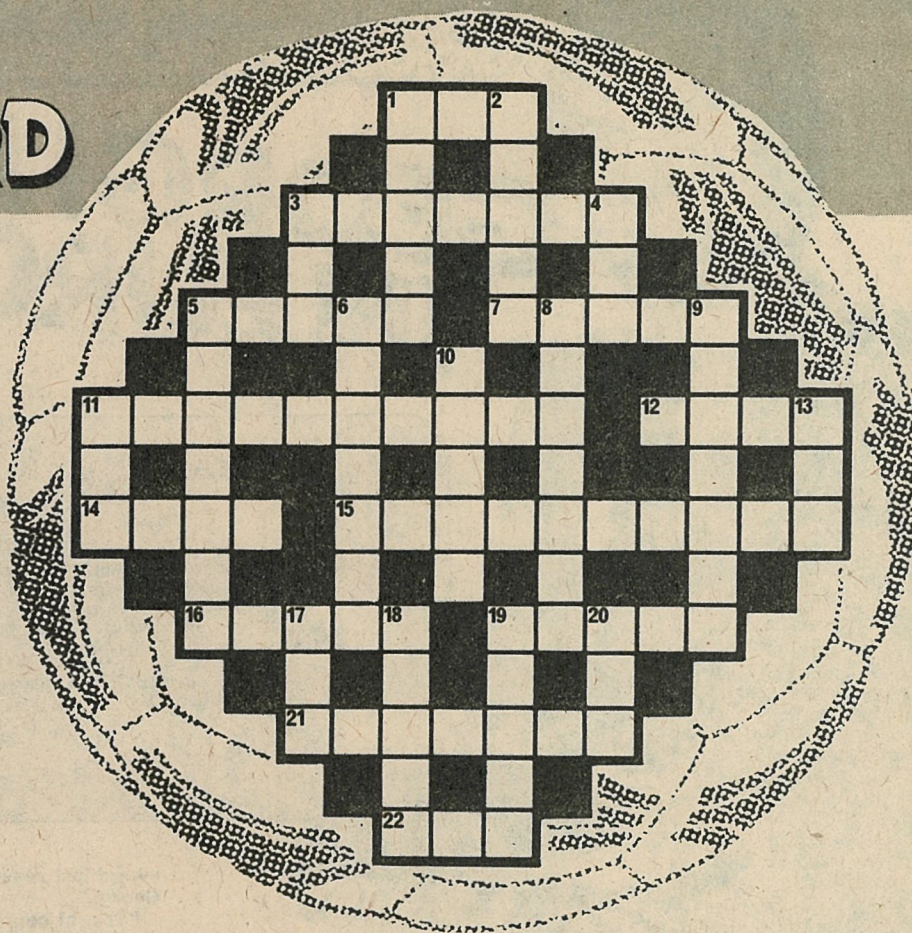
On the ball CROSSWORD

ACROSS:—

- (1) If Watford gives "FAD"; what does Rangers give? (3)
- (3) English Division Two club from Vicarage Road. (7)
- (5) Billy —, West Ham defender. (5)
- (7) Pinch or pull sharply (or playfully). (5)
- (11) Manager of Arsenal. (5&5)
- (12) Animal associated by nickname with Mansfield Town. (4)
- (14) World-famed Brazilian international forward and goalscorer. (4)
- (15) English Third Division club from Priestfield Stadium. (10)
- (16) Remains and continues with the club. (5)
- (19) Russell —, England defender. (5)
- (21) Mike —, Southampton striker. (7)
- (22) --- wich City play at Carrow Road. (3)

DOWN:—

- (1) Eric —, Ipswich striker. (5)
- (2) Drive at goal... or, your favourite Soccer magazine. (5)
- (3) Gain three points. (3)
- (4) Owing. (3)
- (5) Garry —, Manchester United striker. (7)
- (6) Mal —, Luton Town defender. (7)
- (8) Ray —, Manchester United midfielder. (7)
- (9) Peter —, Cardiff City striker. (7)
- (10) Gary of Nottm. Forest or David of W.B.A. (5)
- (11) Prediction for betting on who will win. (3)
- (13) Something to chew during the game! (3)
- (17) B --- elona; famous Spanish club (3)
- (18) Kenny —, Aston Villa fullback. (5)
- (19) Rotherham winger Tony T ----- (5)
- (20) Phil Bonny --- of Chesterfield (3)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 44

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F.A. Cup



'81-'82

Some dream draws for the small clubs

JUST THEIR CUP OF TEA!

TUNES of glory started swirling around non-League clubs' dressing rooms when the draw for Saturday's (November 21st) First Round of the F.A. Cup was made.

The minnows go into action against the 'big boys' from the Football League — determined to grab a brief share of the limelight.

Clubs you may have never heard of before aim to put that right — and put themselves on the map — in football's most glamorous competition.

Among them are *Hornden Colliery Welfare*, from the Northern League. They have a home draw against one of the greatest F.A. Cup names of all — *Blackpool*.

No doubt your dad has told you countless times that Blackpool figured in the greatest Cup Final of them all, when they reduced a nation to tears by beating Bolton 4-3 to win the trophy in 1953.

It was the one everyone wanted them to win for the sake of the great Stanley Matthews. At 3-1 down it looked as though Matthews was to be disappointed for the third time in five years.

Then came a dramatic late rally, with Matthews providing the cross for the winning goal. That game will live forever in the memory of those lucky enough to watch it!

But it will mean nothing to the miners of Hornden, from the North-East of England, who aim to make Blackpool rock!

And Third Division pacemakers *Walsall* won't relish their trip to the same part of the world. They go up



Bishop's Stortford (stripes) and Sutton United met in last season's F.A. Trophy Final at Wembley. Now they clash again in the F.A. Cup.

there to take on *Blyth Spartans*, who caused a sensation by reaching the Fifth Round three years ago, before losing to Wrexham in front of a full-house at Newcastle in St. James' Park.

Altrincham, from the Alliance Premier League, have made a habit of having a good run in the F.A. Cup. In recent years they have given Everton and Tottenham a tough time by going as far as the Third Round — when the First and Second Division clubs come in.

So they won't worry too much about a trip to *Sheffield United* — five times winners of the trophy,

but now in the Fourth Division for the first time in their history.

Isthmian League *Harlow* — who reached the Fourth Round two years ago — they knocked out Southend and Leicester before losing at Watford in a 4-3 thriller — should go through at the expense of *Barnet*.

And *Yeovil* — the greatest Cup fighters of them all, having reached this stage 34 times — face a difficult task away to fellow Alliance Premier Leaguers *Dagenham* — who are burning for a good Cup run.

Gary Matthews — editor of a local paper in Wolverhampton — hopes to be making the news instead of reporting it when he plays for West Midlands League *Willenhall* against struggling *Crewe*.

The draw pulled out a repeat of last season's F.A. Trophy Final between *Bishop's Stortford* and *Sutton*. Stortford won that 1-0 at Wembley and, with home advantage, are confident of a repeat.

F.A. Cup First Round

Aldershot v Leytonstone & Ilford
Bedford v Wimbeldon
Bideford v Barking
Bishop Auckland v Nuneaton
Bishop's Stortford v Sutton Utd
Blyth Spartans v Walsall
Boston Utd v Kettering
Bournemouth v Reading
Brentford v Exeter
Bristol City v Torquay
Bristol Rovers v Fulham
Burnley v Runcorn
Chesterfield v Preston
Colchester v Newport
Dagenham v Yeovil
Darlington v Carlisle
Dorchester v Minehead
Dover v Oxford Utd
Enfield v Hastings
Halifax v Peterborough
Harlow v Barnet
Hendon v Wycombe Wndra
Hereford v Southend
Horden v Blackpool
Lincoln v Port Vale
Mansfield v Doncaster
Penrith v Chester
Plymouth v Gillingham
Portsmouth v Millwall
Rochdale v Hull
Scunthorpe v Bradford
Sheffield Utd v Altrincham
Stafford Rngs v York
Stockport v Mossley
Taunton v Swindon
Tranmere v Bury
Weymouth v Northampton
Wigan v Hartlepool
Willenhall v Crewe
Workington v Huddersfield

F.A. Cup Gates

THERE is still nothing to compare with the F.A. Cup for thrills, entertainment and spectator appeal.

For while League attendances slumped to a post-War low last season, more people watched F.A. Cup games than for the previous three years.

An average 16,312 people watched each F.A. Cup-tie last season, but this season crowds may drop slightly.

The figures last season were boosted by an extra 92,000 for the Final replay, while the season before was aided by the fact that it took six Semi-Finals to decide the eventual Finalists.

Over the past ten seasons F.A. Cup gates have dropped by 13 per cent (see table below), and with an all-time low expected for League attendances this time, it will be interesting to see whether the F.A. Cup still holds the same magic for so many football fans.

*Facts supplied by 'Football Today' the official journal of the Football Association.



Fulham (white shirt) travel to Bristol on Saturday, not to take on City (dark strip) but their near neighbours Rovers. City are at home to Torquay.

F.A. CUP ATTENDANCES

| | 1st Round | 2nd Round | 3rd Round | 4th Round | 5th Round | 6th Round | Semi-Finals & Final | Total | Average No. of matches | per match |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| 1980-81 | 246,824 | 194,502 | 832,578 | 534,402 | 320,530 | 288,714 | 339,250 | 2,756,800 | 169 | 16,312 |
| 1979-80 | 267,121 | 204,759 | 804,701 | 507,725 | 364,039 | 157,530 | 355,541 | 2,661,416 | 163 | 16,328 |
| 1978-79 | 243,773 | 185,343 | 880,345 | 537,748 | 243,683 | 263,213 | 249,897 | 2,604,002 | 166 | 15,687 |
| 1977-78 | 258,248 | 178,930 | 881,406 | 540,164 | 400,751 | 137,059 | 198,020 | 2,594,578 | 160 | 16,216 |
| 1976-77 | 379,230 | 192,159 | 942,523 | 631,265 | 373,330 | 205,379 | 258,216 | 2,982,102 | 174 | 17,139 |
| 1975-76 | 255,533 | 178,099 | 867,880 | 573,843 | 471,925 | 206,851 | 205,810 | 2,759,941 | 161 | 17,142 |
| 1974-75 | 283,956 | 170,466 | 914,994 | 646,434 | 393,323 | 268,361 | 291,369 | 2,968,903 | 172 | 17,261 |
| 1973-74 | 214,236 | 125,295 | 840,142 | 747,909 | 346,012 | 233,307 | 273,051 | 2,779,952 | 167 | 16,646 |
| 1972-73 | 259,432 | 169,114 | 938,741 | 735,825 | 357,386 | 241,934 | 226,543 | 2,928,975 | 160 | 18,306 |
| 1971-72 | 277,726 | 236,127 | 986,094 | 711,399 | 468,378 | 230,292 | 248,546 | 3,158,562 | 160 | 19,741 |

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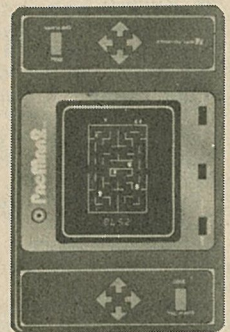
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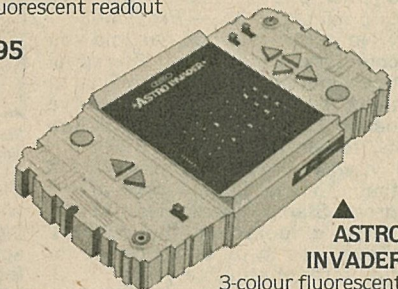
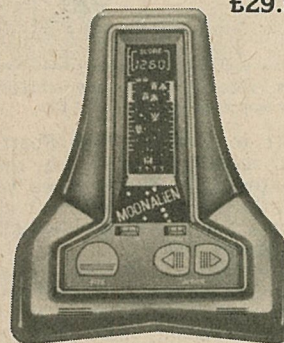


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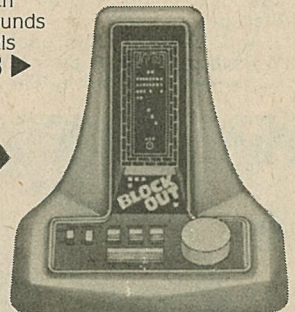


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to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Clive Silver of Pinner, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

FORGET THE BAD POINTS

IT beats me why most people are criticising football. Whenever I look in the newspapers I read about falling gates, transfer madness, managers and players with their priorities all wrong and, of course, the disgraceful England team.

The question should be asked: "Do people want football or not?"

Ninety-nine per cent of the fans would say "yes". Instead of speaking of the bad points of football, what about the good points?

In an age of recession the unemployed man hasn't got much going for him — except football!

What better way is there to make a person forget all his worries than to cheer on his local football team?

It may not get him a job, but it will take his mind off it for 90 minutes on a Saturday afternoon.

● If you're unemployed you can't always afford to go to a game. What English football needed more than anything was England to qualify for the World Cup Finals.

A winner

ON the early evidence it certainly looks as if the League picked a winner with the three points for a win system. The number of 0-0 and 1-0 scorelines has dropped substantially and teams seem much more willing to attack.

The effect this has had is that the goals total has gone up and the fans are a lot happier — success all round.

BARRY TURNER, WINDSOR.

● Drawing three successive away games no longer seems such a good thing — you've now dropped six points.

Low People

I CAN'T understand why some readers here in Scotland keep writing in now and then complaining of English boasting.

Most countries will do a bit of boasting now and then, including Scotland.

One has just to go back a few years before Scotland left for Argentina with Ally MacLeod saying "We will win the World Cup" and the team parading around Hampden Park before thousands of fans before they flew out to Argentina.

If the English team had done that, assuming they qualified, I could imagine the reaction up here.

So I trust Jock Stein will keep things on a low profile, and will not allow that same silly euphoria which went on the last time.

JOHN MCGUINE, TORYGLEN.

● Boasting's all very well — if you have something to shout about.

Greig Must Go

IN his three years at Ibrox as manager John Greig has taken Rangers from being one of Britain's top clubs to a team barely able to hold their own in the Premier Division.

In the last three years our average gate has slumped from 31,000 to less than 20,000.

His team selections have been a disgrace; in recent times Davie Cooper, Bobby Russell (below) and John MacDonald (our three top players) have been left out of the side for the likes of Alex Miller, Colin McAdam and Willie Johnston.

His tactics of grabbing a goal and then trying to hold on has cost us many, many games.

I know I speak for all true Rangers fans when I ask the directors to take the required action before a great club is ruined.

TOM MCGOWN, COATBRIDGE.

● Greig was given a vote of confidence when he was offered a new contract. His biggest problem is that there is one Rangers player he's never replaced: John Greig.



Double Standards?

COULD some Liverpool players be accused of double standards?

"I'm the Best" insists Liverpool's axed star Alan Kennedy — SHOOT 26th September, 1981.

"No one (at Liverpool) is considered as being on a level above anyone else" — Phil Thompson in SHOOT 10th October, 1981.

DECLAN O'CARROLL, DUBLIN.

● Perhaps some are more equal than others...

Liverpool's Alan Kennedy (dark strip) insists he is the best full-back at the club.



Sunderland Scheme

I MUST draw your attention to Sunderland, and their new plan to attract the missing supporters back to the game.

Their reduction in prices for seats is an idea which other clubs must follow. Although Sunderland have never had any difficulty in pulling big crowds, the falling attendances in all four Divisions of the Football League has reached an alarming level, and it is about time one club took some really positive action.

Another plan is to make four season tickets available to a family of four for the price of three, and thus try to encourage the family spirit back to the game, which has sadly been missing in recent seasons.

In doing this Sunderland have taken into account the current hard times and the three million unemployed. I'm sure it will prove successful.

PAUL MIRFIELD, MORPETH.

● Well done Sunderland — but wouldn't it be nice if they could attract fans because of exciting football and success?

Everton not boring

IN the media recently, Everton have been dubbed "unimaginative" and "boring".

This is totally untrue. The only boring game I have seen at Goodison this season has been the League Cup game against Coventry, who went to Goodison looking for a draw.

Open, intelligent, attacking football has been seen in most games at Everton this season.

SIMON HAYHURST, MAGHULL.

● Presumably you haven't seen Everton too often away from home.

Junior soccer shame

MY younger brother Anthony is a member of his school football team and they played away in a League match against a nearby primary school.

Both teams were comprised of nine- and ten-year-olds and the majority of the supporters were of the same age group.

Throughout the whole match my brother's team were subjected to abuse, stone-throwing and various other kinds of harassment.

For instance, several times the home spectators were squirting lemon juice at the players and at one point one of our players was punched in the stomach.

While this was happening other spectators were hanging on the goal-posts and spitting at the goalkeeper.

If this is the behaviour of children who are only nine then what are they going to be like when they have reached an age when alcohol influences their behaviour on the terraces?

LORRAINE CRONSHAW, ROCHDALE.

● Soccer's problems obviously don't start and end at Football League level.

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Professional career

How do I set about getting a trial with a League club?

DAVID PORTER, STOKE-ON-TRENT

● First thing, David, is to drop a line to the Secretary of the club you most fancy your chances with — giving some brief details of your age, playing experience, and anything else you reckon might weigh in your favour.

A lot of clubs hold special "trial sessions" from time to time to sort out young hopefuls and, if impressed, it could well be they'll invite you along to one of these.

It's not a bad idea to approach a "lesser" club first. There — rather than the likes of Manchester United or Liverpool — you'll stand a much better chance of getting a start because the competition obviously isn't so great.

After that, if you've got what it takes, it's really up to you — and, given enough talent, the sky's the limit!

Referee Hill

Is is true soccer and TV personality Jimmy Hill once refereed a First Division match?

YAHYA ISOLA, LIBYA

● Well, not quite, Yahya — though he certainly did "come on as sub" for a linesman in an important Arsenal-Liverpool League game at Highbury on 16th September, 1972.

A linesman badly tore a leg muscle early on, and could no longer run — so Jimmy (himself a qualified, if non-practising, ref) gallantly came down from the TV commentary box to answer the appeal for someone to take on the job.

Channon tops

Did Allan Clarke or Mike Channon score more goals for England?

DALJIT SINGH, LEEDS

● Seeing as you live in Leeds, Daljit, I'm sorry to have to tell you that Channon wins that one hands down — although he did, of course, play in many more games.

Channon scored 21 goals in 46 full internationals, while Clarke hit home ten in 19.

SHORT PASSES

● Chelsea needed only 52 points to gain the League title in 1954-55. Next came Wolves and Portsmouth, each with 48.

(LEIF NILZEN, Sweden)

● Argentinian Alex Sabella joined Leeds from Sheffield United for £400,000 in May, 1980.

(JONATHAN OCKLETON, Nottingham)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

'FEW GOALS, BUT IT'S RANGERS' CUP'

RANGERS will win the League Cup at Hampden on Saturday week (November 28) and foil Dundee United's attempts of three successive victories in the tournament.

Okay, that was easy to say, but I know it will be more difficult to prise open United's grasp on the trophy they seem to think has become their personal property.

I believe Rangers will bring the League Cup back to Ibrox, but there could be only one goal in the victory margin once the dust settles down. I would be happy with a 2-1 scoreline for Rangers . . . in fact, I would happily settle for ANY winning margin!

On the night United were shocking Aberdeen, in the Semi's we had our work cut out at Ibrox getting past the difficult hurdle of St. Mirren.

We eventually got the winner from young John MacDonald minutes from time.

Dangerous

I don't have to remind Dundee United how dangerous John MacDonald is in these knock-out competitions. Remember, it was John who scored two in last season's Scottish Cup Final when we beat the Dundee United men 4-1 at Hampden.

So, it's going to be an action replay at Hampden next Saturday, but I can't see so many goals being scored.

What do I think about United? I watched them destroy West German cracks Borussia Mönchengladbach 5-0 in the second-leg of their UEFA Cup-tie.

What about the players? Davie Dodds doesn't get a great amount of praise, but he does a wonderful job in the Tannadice front line.

All right, he doesn't possess those special skills of Paul Sturrock — there aren't many who do! — but he is a hard-working player and he complements Paul well.

We all know how good players such as Sturrock, David Narey and Paul Hegarty are, but another 'unsung hero' of Tannadice is Iain Phillip, another 100 per cent performer.

When things get difficult it is always good to have an experienced campaigner such as Iain in the ranks. There's no fuss about his play, but he always lets you know he is on the field. Yes, a good player to have in your team.

TARTAN TALK ALLY DAWSON

Hamish McAlpine has come in for criticism this season, but he is a very capable goalkeeper, believe me. It seems every player over 30 in Scotland at the moment is ripe for criticism! I wonder why.

Last season I was made captain of the team for the first time against the Tannadice men in a midweek League match at Ibrox . . . it ended 4-1, but, alas in their favour.

So I know how dangerous United are. They have many gifted individuals such as Sturrock, the rapidly-maturing Ralph Milne, Eamonn Bannon, Hegarty and Narey to name a few.

They play for each other and their application to a game could never be faulted. The crowd for the Hampden game will be pegged at 57,000 because of current reconstruction work and I just hope

it is a sell-out.

Actually, I believe United play better in front of huge attendances. They don't play in front of consistently big crowds — 5,000 is commonplace at Tannadice — although they obviously deserve more.

That's why they may have a sharper sense of occasion on Saturday week. But I still believe

there will be blue-and-white ribbons on that Cup when the referee blows for full-time.

Rangers have taken stick this season for inconsistency, but may I point out that we won the last trophy of last season — the Scottish Cup — and now we are only 90 minutes away from winning the first of the new season. That can't be bad.

Ally Dawson

TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK



Ally Dawson (right) clears from United's Paul Sturrock during last season's Scottish Cup Final.

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JAKE'S PROGRESS

JAKE Findlay is a man with a double mission this season. Priority number one is to help Luton Town finally achieve that much sought-after promotion to Division One, which has so tantalisingly eluded them for the last couple of seasons.

And in the process, he hopes to achieve his second aim — a place in Jock Stein's World Cup squad for Spain.

"Any player with international aspirations must have thoughts of making the trip to Spain very much in mind this term," Jake said. "I know I have. This season is make or break as far as that's concerned."

'Recognition'

"If Luton had been a First Division side, I'm sure I would have had at least some kind of international recognition by now," Findlay goes on. "Even if it had only been a call up to the squad. I'm confident I'm as good as any of the leading contenders for the Scottish 'keeper's jersey."

"But it goes without saying that Mr Stein gets to see far more English First Division games than he does Second Division, because

he's able to run the rule over several international prospects at the same time.

"There are fewer candidates in Division Two, so it means he has to go to a game to watch just one player in particular.

"I know in the past the Luton manager, David Pleat, has often said that Mr Stein should come and see me. He told me only the other day that he'd written again, recommending that I be given a chance. But so far he's had no reply.

"So all I can do is keep playing to the best of my ability, helping Luton to stay at the top of the Division, and hope that in itself attracts enough attention to warrant a visit.

"We've certainly been getting more than our share of headlines lately because of the way we've started the season. And that's despite the fact that I don't believe we've played as well as we can.

"In most matches so far, I'd say only six or seven of the side have played on top form together. Some players might go off the boil in one game, then others in the next. We haven't really all got it together at the same time yet. When that happens, you watch us go."

Findlay is confident The Hatters will avoid a repeat of the disappointing endings to the two previous seasons.

"Last season in particular, after getting ourselves right back into the running following a disastrous start, we threw everything away through inexperience," says Jake.

"When things began to go wrong, we panicked — and they got worse. But the players are all that much older and wiser now. Besides, when the season reaches its final stages, that's when I believe we'll see the full value of our new skipper, Brian

Horton. His powers of leadership and experience will really come into their own.

"We're very much an attack-minded side," says Jake. "And because of that, we obviously push a lot of men forward — especially at home. That means I'm quite often left without the kind of cover other goalkeepers might expect.

"So naturally the chances of conceding goals are that much greater. But so long as we're scoring more at the other end, I don't mind too much."



THREE years ago the rumours began to circulate that John Richards was about to be forced into quitting football. A succession of problems with a troublesome knee looked likely to bring a premature end to the playing career of the Wolves and former England striker.

But John, one of the game's genuine nice guys, refused to accept what others considered to be the inevitable. Instead, he showed tremendous courage and character to overcome his difficulties, and prove he *could* still play and — more important for him — score goals in the First Division.

Now Richards, a loyal one-club man, is having to call once again on those same fighting qualities in an effort to prove to manager John Barnwell that he is worthy of a regular first team place, in what is undoubtedly going to be a long, hard season for the Midlandsers.

"I've never given less than 100 per cent for this club in the 12 years that I've been here," says John. "And last season I was delighted at being made team captain, in addition to the role of club captain, which I'd held for around five years.

"That's why I was so upset and hurt when I was dropped from the first team this season. And even more so when I found myself being

offered in a part exchange deal with Birmingham for Joe Gallagher.

"That proposed transfer took me

completely by surprise. Joe agreed to come here straight away, but I asked for four or five days to think things over, even though finan-



RICHARDS' FIGHTBACK

cially it was a very attractive offer for me.

"In the meantime, though, City bought Neil Whatmore from Bolton, which made me realise that they couldn't have been all that keen on me in the first place.

"What with that, and finding myself in and out of the reserves, it was all very unsettling. And to confuse matters even more, a week or so later the newspapers published what was said to be a list of players for whom John Barnwell was prepared to listen to offers — and I wasn't on it.

"So naturally I decided that if I was to stay at the club, after all, I wanted to do my bit in the battle ahead. And that means winning a regular first team place again.

"I know I've been around for some time. And probably looked upon as being passed my best in

some people's eyes," admits Richards. "But I've never felt fitter, and I'm absolutely certain I can still do a good job for the club.

"I must have scored more than 200 goals in various competitions for Wolves, an achievement I feel I can be rightly proud of. And I don't believe I've lost the knack of hitting the back of the net overnight.

"The publicity surrounding the club has undoubtedly played its part in our poor start to the season," John points out.

"Players and fans alike have been upset by all the speculation that's been going on."

Despite the present problems, Richards is adamant that he doesn't regret the fact that Wolves have been his one and only club.

"I've enjoyed plenty of good times here," says John. "And had to endure one or two not-so-good spells, too. But it's all part of life.

"I know I could have made a lot more money by moving around from club to club. But to use an old cliché, I don't think money is everything. I really mean that, too.

"I know dozens of players who have moved around, made their money, but have been extremely unhappy into the bargain. That's not for me.

"I want to be happy playing my football. And nothing would make me happier right now than to play a full part in helping Wolves to overcome their current problems."

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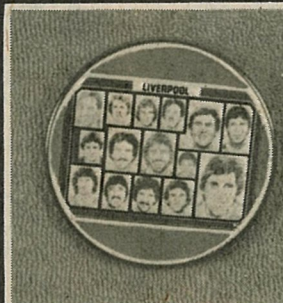
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GEORGE REILLY



~ POACHER TURNED GAMEKEEPER

IT'S the poacher turned gamekeeper! Once, big George Reilly was known as one of the Second Division's most dangerous headers in front of opposing goalmouths, now his 6 feet 3 inches present a formidable defensive barrier for Cambridge United.

"It will prove his best position," predicts manager John Docherty of his record £140,000 signing. "We are in a transitional stage in terms of tactical policies and I thought that George would be the perfect player for a vital job."

"He had played in central defence on a few occasions at Northampton Town before he signed here and looked promising. It fitted in well with our current plans for him to drop into defence again — and he has done outstandingly there since the start of the season."

Reilly, one of the tallest men in the game, adds: "And I'm there to stay. I feel happier playing in defence than I ever did at the front. I've scored consistently for both Northampton and Cambridge but I've never experienced the satisfaction that a defensive responsibility gives me."

"I'd been told a few times by people who know a lot about the game that central defence would be best for me — and they're right. The whole game is there in front of you; you have more time to react; longer on the ball; a better chance to show up well."

For a player born in Scotland, there could be no better moment to start winning extra headlines. Manager Jock Stein will be running the rule over every player with Scottish qualifications — especially those who can do two jobs — and George insists:

"I may have left Scotland as a three-year-old but put me down as 100 per cent Scottish. It has been my lifetime dream to pull on the Scottish jersey."

"I feel that playing in defence is going to do even more for my career than operating as a striker. From my own experience up front, I know just what players are going

to do. But I'm the one with my back to goal and the background knowledge to sense what is going through their minds!"

Nor is the lean, powerful Reilly just a stopper and blocker. "The days are gone at Cambridge when we battled to show that we had a right to be in the Second Division. Now the manager is pressing us to play a sharper, more open style of football."

"We know that we can make it work. There is the confidence now among the players that we don't need to fear anyone."

"That is more important than ever this season with three points at stake for a win. That is why John Docherty is urging us to play the ball away rather than clutter it — and we didn't need much convincing."

"From the moment Cambridge arrived in the Second Division in 1978, the experts weren't giving us a chance. I don't think that they can say that any longer. We are there by right; we are proving ourselves better all the time."

'Doubled'

Manager Docherty points out firmly: "How many clubs can say that they have doubled their average crowds over the past four seasons? How many can look at a ground over half full for every home game?"

Reilly is the biggest signing — both physically and financially — that Cambridge have made in their brief 11-year history as a Football League club and he says: "One thing that people should stop saying about us is that this is 'Ron Atkinson's team'. It isn't."

"John Docherty has been in charge ever since Ron left for West Bromwich. It is John who has achieved a tremendous task in establishing Cambridge United as a Second Division club."

"Now he is imposing a tactical style that acknowledges the fact that we are a Second Division club good enough to finish eighth in 1979-80 and 13th last year — and that would have been far higher if we hadn't lost six of our last seven matches. Cambridge is a club moving with the times."

PHIL Bonnyman, earning rave reviews in Chesterfield's efforts to live up to their billing as Third Division promotion favourites, almost missed the start of the new campaign.

But the "clogger" who put him into hospital for a summer knee injury wasn't one of the League's hard men — it was Bonnyman's one-year-old son Ryan!

"We were on holiday in Torquay with our goalkeeper John Turner, who used to play for the Devon club," Bonnyman explained.

"I was playing with Ryan and my other son, three-year-old Paul, having great fun picking them up and jumping in the air."

"All of a sudden my knee locked, and it all ended up with me in hospital for an operation on a torn cartilage."

"It was incredible. I'd just finished a season of nearly 60

games with no more than a few bruises — and then I got a serious injury playing with the children."

Bonnyman's return to form after an indifferent first season following his transfer from Carlisle made many people think he had carried the knee injury through that long season.

"I wondered that myself, but the surgeon said the tear had been a sudden thing."

BONNYMAN INJURED BY A BABY!

"I was lucky to recover from the operation so quickly — and I think my form now has more to do with a positional change. Our manager Frank Barlow has switched me to a more central attacking midfield role, and I'm getting more involved in the game from there."

"Last season I was playing wide on the right, and found it hard to get into the game, and my

confidence suffered."

After finishing fifth last season and fourth a year earlier Chesterfield believe this could be their promotion season.

"It won't be easy — everybody wants to beat us because of our record," says Bonnyman.

"But as long as we get our attitude right and put in the work can't see anybody who can stop us."



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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

ARSENAL'S hopes of winning the First Division Championship for the first time in ten years would appear to be as remote as the prospects of finding gold down a tin mine.

Any chance they had of making an impact in that area were dashed when they failed to plug the gap caused by Frank Stapleton's transfer to Manchester United.

John Hawley was bought from Sunderland to add punch to a lightweight attack, but it was rather like acquiring a B-movie star to fill in for Robert Redford.

If Terry Neill, Arsenal's manager, was not publicly critical of events at Highbury, there were others more than ready to condemn The Gunners.

Angry shareholders left the Arsenal board in no doubt about their feelings at an annual meeting which was highly critical of Neill.

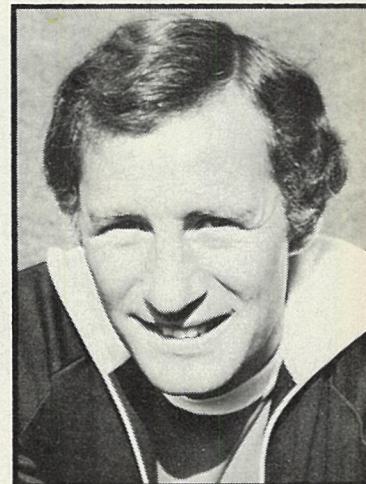
Fuming fans on Arsenal's famous North Bank terracing, a threat by chief coach Don Howe to quit unless players gave more effort, a blazing public row between the manager and Scottish defender Willie Young, and inconsistent performances in the First Division and Cup



Kids can fire The Gunners



Raphael Meade scores on his League debut against Manchester City (left) while Chris Whyte goes close in the same game (above). But their presence has not spared manager Terry Neill (right) from much criticism.



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seasons is: 1975-76 17th; 1976-77 8th; 1977-78 5th; 1978-79 7th; 1979-80 4th; 1980-81 3rd.

Fourth and third in the past two seasons encouraged the fans to believe they would go one better this season. Stapleton's exit ruined the party.

So what hope for the future?

Given time, if that is acceptable to the supporters who pay big money to watch the club, Arsenal possess one of the richest crops of young talent in the country.

The way ahead for Arsenal could be to pin their faith in young limbs.

John Hollins, one of the most respected professionals in the game, claims that Terry Neill is right not to be stampeded into the transfer market.

"We need players desperately, but I don't blame Terry for refusing to be held to ransom," he says.

"I know it's frustrating for the fans, but I ask them to be patient and give the young kids we are bleeding a chance," urges Hollins.

Hollins' final point offers the one chance of salvaging respectability from an awful mess they find themselves in.

Paul Davis has brought class to their midfield and might have done much better had Graham Rix not been so erratic this season.

Raphael Meade has made a notable contribution, capping a promising first team debut by scoring with his first kick against Panathinaikos in the UEFA Cup.

Chris Whyte, aged 20, bears all the hallmarks of class whenever he has replaced Young at the back.

Nicknamed 'Huggy' after the character in Starsky and Hutch, Whyte gained first team promotion when Young fell out with Neill.

David O'Leary, rated the best centre-half in Europe, comments: "I can't believe how well he has settled in. He looks confident on the ball and if he has a fault it is that he tries to play too much football."

Brian McDermott, another youngster, has played with much maturity since winning a first team place last season.

By the end of the season, Arsenal might have won nothing but could well be applauding their decision to get out of the transfer rat race in favour of producing their own talent.

competitions have done nothing to enhance the club's reputation.

Arsenal's departure from the UEFA Cup after defeat by Winterslag was a bitter blow to their hopes of making progress in Europe if not at home.

Meanwhile, Terry Neill, always an optimist even at the darkest moments, clings fervently to the belief that Arsenal will get back to winning ways.

Irish blarney or reality? That's the question bugging those passionately loyal fans who brave the dreariest games at Highbury.

Some are beginning to doubt Neill's word. They complain that he lives in Cloud Cuckoo Land, smoothing over deficiencies in his team with the right word, at the right time.

They reckon it is time the talking stopped and the action began.

To study Arsenal's problems

realistically, the situation seems to be that unless they can buy two ready-made stars, the fans will have to wait for the club's exceptionally talented youngsters to mature into First Division regulars.

Arsenal's First Division record in the past six seasons has not been impressive despite assurances to the contrary from Neill. So does it matter if the fans have to wait a little longer for the success they demand?

Successes in Cups have tended to obscure Arsenal's mediocre Championship record of late.

Terry Neill would argue otherwise, but the Irishman tends to forget that *only the best* is good enough for a club bearing rich traditions and powerful ambitions as one of the world's leading football institutions.

Arsenal's record over the last six

ARSE



ENAL

BACK ROW (left to right): Pat Jennings, Alan Sunderland, Paul Vaessen, Willie Young, David O'Leary, Sammy Nelson (now Brighton), Steve Gattin (now Brighton), George Wood.

FRONT ROW: Peter Nicholas, Brian Talbot, Graham Rix, Kenny Sansom, John Devine, Brian McDermott, Paul Davis, John Hollins.



SHOOT!

MARADONA MUDDLE

THE Argentine football scene is still bubbling after Diego Maradona's decision not to attend the national team's training camp or take part in the friendlies against Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The 20-year-old superstar insists that he's up to the eyeballs with soccer after a crazy season in which he's played 87 matches with Boca Juniors and the national team.

As SHOOT reported back in August, Maradona is struggling to cope with the burdens of his world fame and his ten million dollar transfer, which is now the subject of a bitter legal battle between the two clubs involved.

Diego's need for a break from



the game is, in certain respects, more than understandable.

But rules are rules, even for superstars, and both manager Menotti and Argentina F.A. president Julio Grondona are in a quandary about the best course of action to take over Diego's act of desertion from the national team.

Morale would plummet if Maradona were to receive preferential treatment, and skipper Daniel Passarella has already gone on record as saying that "Diego is a team member, the same as everyone else. And he's got to be treated the same as everyone else. The national team is more important than any individual player."

F.A. president Julio Grondona is

also undecided about possible disciplinary action against Maradona, and the world's number one could find himself suspended from football for as much as six months — which would aggravate even further the economic crisis at his club.

In the meantime, Diego's place in the Argentina squad has been taken by Estudiantes star Patricio Hernández.

And significantly, while Argentina were slumping to a shock 1-2 home defeat by Poland, Maradona was hitting top form for his club, Boca Juniors.

He scored one of Boca's goals in the vital 2-1 win over Atlético Tucumán, and is once again among the League's top scorers.

OLYMPIQUE MARSEILLE, deep in debt and now in France's Division Two, are staging a comeback.

Vying with Toulouse for promotion, the two clubs clashed at the Velodrome in Marseille, drew 1-1 and pulled in a remarkable 40,376.

Toulouse fielded Hungarian sweeper Laszlo Balint and Belgian World Cup ace Robbie Rensenbrink and the gate, remarkably, was better even than any French Division One gate this season.



Compiled by CHRIS DAVIES

'LAURIE STAYS' — Real Madrid boss



"ALL the rumours about us replacing Laurie are just that — rumours," says Real Madrid President, Luis De Carlos. "He's a fine player, and everyone here at the club is simply hoping that he'll regain fitness as soon as possible and manage to put this tragic run of injuries behind him. You can say categorically that Laurie Cunningham is staying with Real Madrid."

That firm statement from the Real supremo puts an end to all the rumours that Laurie Cunningham might be back in England before Christmas. The 25-year-old winger has now had the plaster removed after his ligament operation, and his recuperation count-down has already begun.



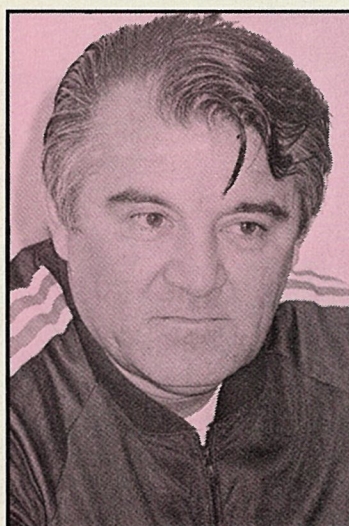
"Laurie's injury isn't as serious as the Press have made out," says his Yugoslav manager Vujadin Boskov (left). "Only one ligament has been affected, and there's a good chance that Laurie could be fit by the New Year."

"Basically the problem was that the Press immediately started saying that we'd got to replace him, and even one of the directors panicked and tried to sign the Russian, Oleg Blokhin."

"But even if we had signed someone immediately, he wouldn't have been eligible for any European matches until next spring, so it would have been crazy to bring in a new man for about 15 or 20 League matches."

"I prefer to work with other members of the squad who already know the club's style of play."

"The Press has dramatised the situation, and said some ridiculous things. Laurie will be back in the team soon, you'll see."



RICH MAN, POOR CLUB

ATLÉTICO MINEIRO have managed to convince Brazil midfielder Toninho Cerezo to renew his contract.

But the renewal is costing the club a bomb.

Cerezo's contract gives him the following over two years — a £50,000 cash payment; 20 building lots each valued at £500 (£10,000); £180,000 paid in 24 monthly instalments and a monthly salary of £6,000; (excluding win and draw bonuses) this to be increased to £10,000 during the period he is with the Brazil team.

In addition to these earnings, he is also guaranteed £10,000 on a promotional contract to be signed in January, 1982.

It is believed that Atlético will soon be in financial difficulties, because their other Brazil stars (Reinaldo, Luisinho and Eder) without a doubt, will make similar demands when their contracts come up for renewal in the very near future.

from America (Rio de Janeiro). Luizinho was running second in the Brazilian scoring charts.

Chilean captain Elias Figueroa has financial problems, thanks to a 'friend'. The 35-year-old defender agreed to act as guarantor on a business deal, but the deal went kaput and the debtors are chasing Elias.

PLAY ON!

WITH Yugoslavia practically qualified for the World Cup, national team boss Miljan Miljanic (left) persuaded the F.A. to prolong the autumn campaign by two weeks. This will give his national team two extra weeks to prepare for the trip to Spain with a longer get-together in the spring.

REF BLEW HIS HANDKERCHIEF!

A TEAM of deaf players has made its debut in a Spanish regional League this season, and the solution to the obvious problem of how they would hear the referee's whistle was for the official to wave a white handkerchief at the same time as he blew the whistle.

The deaf players seem to have adapted better than the referees to this system — during their first match the ref blew his white handkerchief and waved his whistle...

THE STANDARD of refereeing is still causing headaches in Chile.

Defending Champions Cobreloa are considering formal protests about one official, Enrique Marín, who refereed their 2-0 defeat by Universidad Católica.

Apparently he awarded the home team a non-existent penalty, and sent-off two Cobreloa players.

He's also alleged to have repeatedly threatened members of the visiting side and told their skipper Victor Merello that if he mentioned anything to the Press after the match he'd be immediately sent-off the next time the two men crossed paths.

ROLL ON '82

BRAZIL's outside-left Zé Sergio will certainly be glad to see the end of 1981.

He fractured an arm twice and attempting to regain fitness he twisted his knee playing tennis and had to be operated on for ruptured knee ligaments.

He will be out of action for another 40 days. He has now been out of football since the end of May, 1981.

SURPRISE in Chile, where the national team manager Luis Santibanez has agreed to sign as manager of First Division club Universidad Católica. Despite his five-year contract, Santibanez reckons to continue his World Cup preparations uninterrupted.

News flashes

Good news from one of next year's World Cup centres, Málaga. Work on the stadium has already been completed.

Falling gates are giving the top clubs a severe headache in Peru. In the first half of the League

programme, attendances dropped by 11 per cent. The slide reflects recent price increases at the turnstiles.

Spanish club Las Palmas have paid only £125,000 to acquire the services of Brazilian striker Luizinho

No kidding — it's what Bolton need TRUE GRIT!

BRIAN Kidd reckons that good, old-fashioned Northern grit is what Bolton Wanderers need to lift them from the Second Division doldrums.

Bolton, who struggled against relegation for most of last season, again look like having a fight to stay up.

And Kidd says: "It's all right everyone saying that we'll pull away from the foot of the table, but talk's cheap.

"It's up to every individual player to look at himself and ask, first of all, whether he's working hard enough and putting enough into the game.

"Only if he can answer yes is it possible for him to put his head on the pillow at night.

"We all know what has to be done and it doesn't do any good for players to be slagging each other off. Fortunately, there's none of that in our dressing room.

"They are a good bunch of lads here and we all need to pull together to see that Bolton survive."

'Kiddo' is the most experienced player Bolton have, with over 400 League games behind him and more than 150 goals.

The 13 goals he scored in the League last season were crucial in Bolton's survival battle. But he knows that it's the goals he scores in the coming weeks that are most important.

He has already put his summer in America behind him, saying: "The most important thing at the moment is Bolton Wanderers.

"My heart goes out to the fans. They really haven't had much to cheer this season and, come to that, they didn't have much to cheer until the end of last season."

Some supporters feared that after a summer playing in the North American League, Kidd might be more ready for a rest than another tough English season.

Fitness

But he's never taken much of a summer break anyway. Even on holidays with his family, he's kept up an individual fitness programme.

"I felt smashing in myself after coming back from America. I think it did me good.

"After all the horror stories I'd heard about American soccer, I was pleasantly surprised by the efficiency of the set up.

"It was super to see the family atmosphere over there. No hooliganism. Just families going along to a game together and enjoying themselves."

The sad thing for Kidd was that his team, Atlanta Chiefs, folded at the end of the season — after winning the Divisional title.

His goalscoring ability, though, impressed a lot of people on the other side of the Atlantic. And there seems sure to be plenty of clubs looking to sign him next summer.

There's also been talk of him joining an American club permanently. But he says: "I've been in the game long enough to wait and see."

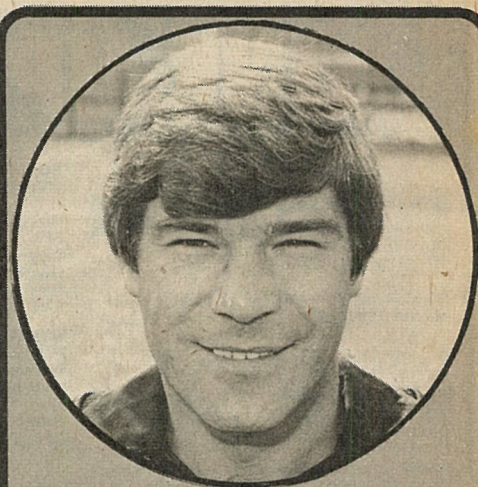
One of Bolton's problems, he reckons, is the changing face of their team since he arrived there.

"The turnover of players since I've been here is unbelievable. People like Sam Allardyce, Neil Whatmore, Willie Morgan, Mike Walsh have all gone — there must be 14 or 15 players in all.

"Now the manager is looking for new players, but that's not an easy job these days, either."

A personal blot on Kidd's return to England was a sending off against Barnsley. It led him into a suspension which Bolton could have done without, and spoiled Kidd's new image.

He says: "I have managed to stay out of trouble over the past couple of years but I got involved again. I thought I had learned to count to ten when trouble loomed — now I'll have to make it 11!"



Supermac's a winner

Guy Fawkes Day — November 5 — had a special significance for Malcolm Macdonald this year.

It marked his first anniversary at Fulham. And Supermac has experienced a few fireworks during that first year in charge!

Yet although his sanity was questioned when he moved into the hot seat at Craven Cottage, Malcolm claims he has enjoyed every minute of it.

A lot of people outside the Third Division club reckoned it would be impossible for Malcolm to please controversial chairman Ernie Clay.

He counters that by saying that Clay is making the job easy for him.

Clay is the blunt, hard-headed millionaire Yorkshire businessman who swept into Fulham like a whirlwind and turned the place over.

"Ernie admits to being a democratic dictator. He is in charge and is the only man I have to answer to," explains Supermac.

'Listener'

"Despite the reputation he has been given by people who do not know him he is a great listener and backs me all the way in decisions I believe to be right.

"When I wanted to take over the job from Bobby Campbell, Ernie was reluctant to appoint me because he said he did not want to have to sack me if things went wrong.

"I answered that by saying I knew more about football than he does and I would know before him if the time came to go.

"I'm glad that I took the plunge and am reasonably happy with the way things have gone in that first year.

"I thrive on hard work and problems — and this job is fraught with those.

"The important thing is to react in the right way to the problems.

"I did not come into the job with any preconceived ideas. I have faced each problem as it comes along.

"You have to be a bit of a psychologist in dealing with 11 individuals. They are all different and require different handling. Some respond to a rocket, others need gentle coaxing and encouragement.

"And managers don't get the peaks and troughs that players do. A player is high or low according to results.

"The only real 'high' I can see myself experiencing now is the day Fulham win promotion to the Second Division. That will last 24 hours — then I'll start thinking about what is needed to equip us for the higher grade of football."

Malcolm Macdonald is a born winner, and he won't be satisfied until he takes Fulham on to better things.



LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS..

Friday, Oct. 30

Fourth Division

COLCHESTER (0) 1 Coleman)
WIGAN (2) 2 (McMahon, Houghton) 3,882
STOCKPORT (1) 3 (Sunley, Williams, Power)
MANSFIELD (0) 0 2,081

Saturday, Oct. 31

First Division

ARSENAL (0) 1 (Thomas (og)) 23,102
COVENTRY (0) 0
 Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Whyte, McDermott, Vaessen, Hawley, Nicholas, Rix.
 Coventry: Blyth, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie, Kaiser, Hateley, Thompson, Gooding, Hunt.

ASTON VILLA (0) 0
IPSWICH (1) 1 (Osman) 32,652
 Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, Ormsby, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
 Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall, Thijssen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.



Aston Villa 'keeper Jimmy Rimmer is beaten by Russell Osman's header for Ipswich.

BIRMINGHAM (1) 3 (Gemmell, Evans, Worthington pen) 21,301
WBA (2) 3 (Regis 3)
 Birmingham: Wealands, Van Den Hauwe (Handysides), Hawker, Curbishley, Broadhurst, Todd, Brocken, Evans, Worthington, Gemmell, van Mierlo.
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Mills, Wile, Robertson, Jol, Brown, Regis, Owen, Mackenzie.

BRIGHTON 0
STOKE 0 17,862
 Brighton: Moseley, Shanks, Williams, Grealish (Stevens), Foster, Gatting, Case, Ritchie, Robinson, McNab, Smith.
 Stoke: Fox, Evans, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Smith, Griffiths, Heath, Chapman, Bracewell, Johnson.

EVERTON (0) 0
MANCHESTER (0) 1 (Tueart) 31,305
 Everton: Arnold, Stevens, Bailey, Higgins, Lyons, Lodge, McMahon, O'Keefe, Ferguson, Ainscow (Sharp), McBride.
 Man. City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Bond, Caton, Tueart, Hareide (Hutchison), Boyer, Power, Reeves.

MANCHESTER UTD (1) 2 (Birtles, Moses)
NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (McCulloch) 45,928
 Man. Utd: Bailey, Gidman, Albiston, Wilkins, Duxbury, Buchan, Robson (Macari), Birtles, Stapleton, Moses, Coppell.
 Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin (Christie), Hunt, Lahtinen, Richards, Goodwin, Kilcline, Masson, McCulloch, Hooks, Mair.

NOTTM. FOREST (1) 2 (Ward, Robertson pen)
LEEDS (1) 1 (Butterworth) 25,272
 Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Aas, Needham, Gunn, Proctor, McGovern, Gray, Fashanu, Ward, Robertson.
 Leeds: Lukic, Cherry, Burns, Hart, Gray (F), Hird, Stevenson, Hamson, Graham, Gray (E), Butterworth.

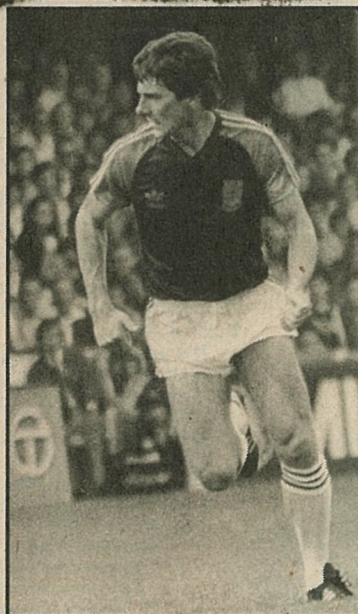
SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Moran)
TOTTENHAM (1) 2 (Roberts, Corbett) 24,131
 Southampton: Katalinic, Baker, Holmes, Williams, Nicholl, Waldron, Keegan, Channon, Moran, Armstrong (Lawrence), Ball.
 Tottenham: Clemence, Miller, Hughton, Perryman, Hazard, Roberts, Ardies, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks (Corbett).

SUNDERLAND (0) 0
LIVERPOOL (0) 2 (Souness, McDermott) 27,854

Sunderland: Siddall, Venison, Munro, Buckley, Clarke, Elliott, Chisholm, McCoist, Ritchie (West), Pickering, Cummins.
 Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Neal, Lawrenson, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Whelan, Rush, McDermott, Souness.

SWANSEA 0
WOLVES 0 17,750
 Swansea: Davies, Stanley, Rajkovic, Stevenson, Irwin, Attley, Mahoney, James (R), Curtis, Latchford, James (L).
 Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Brazier, Berry, Parkin, Birch (Parke), Matthews, Daniel, Atkinson, Eves, Richards.

WEST HAM (2) 3 (Neighbour, Angus (og), Stewart pen)
MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 2 (Woof, Thomson pen) 27,604
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
 Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bolton, Angus, Baxter, McAndrew (Shearer), Cochrane, Otto, Woof, Hodgson, Thomson.



West Ham's Ray Stewart

NORWICH 0
BOLTON 0 12,991
 Norwich: Woods, Symonds, Donachie, McGuire, Walford, Watson, Barham (Shepherd), Haylock, Jack, Mendham, Bennett.
 Bolton: McDonagh, Whitworth, Bennett, Henry, Jones, Gowling, Chandler, Kidd, Hoggan, Cantello, Thompson.

OLDHAM (3) 3 (Wylde, Heaton, Steel)
NEWCASTLE (1) 1 (Davies) 9,010
 Oldham: McDonnell, Hoolickin, Edwards, Keegan, Clements, Fletcher, Wylde, Heaton, Steel, Palmer, Atkinson.
 Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Davies, Trewick, Barton, Carney, Shinton, Martin, Varadi, Wharton, Waddle.

ROTHERHAM (3) 6 (Breckin, Fern 3, Moore 2 (1 pen))
CHELSEA (0) 0 10,145
 Rotherham: Mountford, Forrest, Breckin, Rhodes, Stancliffe, Green, Towner, Gooding, Moore, Fern, Henson.
 Chelsea: Borota, Chivers, Hutchings, Viljoen, Droy, Pates, Rhoades-Brown, Bumstead, Lee, Walker, Fillery.

SHREWSBURY (0) 0
WATFORD (2) 2 (Jenkins, Barnes) 5,672
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, Leonard, Griffin, Potts, Keay, MacLaren, Tong, McNally (Edwards), Atkins, Biggins, Bates.
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritcher, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Callaghan, Blissett (Armstrong), Jenkins, Jackett, Barnes.

Third Division

BRENTFORD 0
BURNLEY 0 6,930

BRISTOL CITY 0
CHESTERFIELD 0 8,442

CHESTER (2) 2 (Phillips, Needham)
READING (2) 3 (Kearney, Webb pen, Dixon) 1,765

DONCASTER (2) 4 (Lister, Douglas, Pugh, Snodin (G))
BRISTOL ROVERS (0) 2 (Mabbutt, Stephens) 6,694

FULHAM (0) 1 (Wilson)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Hemmerman) 7,542

GILLINGHAM (0) 1 (White)
SWINDON (0) 0 8,410

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 1 (Robins)
MILLWALL (0) 2 (Warman, Chatterton) 8,546

NEWPORT (2) 2 (Eisey 2)
CARLISLE (0) 0 3,972

OXFORD (0) 1 (Thomas)
LINCOLN (0) 1 (Bell) 3,985

PRESTON (0) 1 (Pountney (og))
SOUTHEND (0) 0 4,285

WALSALL (0) 0
PLYMOUTH (1) 1 (Sims) 4,549

WIMBLEDON (1) 1 (Lazarus)
EXETER (0) 1 (Lester) 2,152

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (0) 1 (Sanford)
HARTLEPOOL (1) 2 (Newton, Linacre (J)) 2,658

BURY (4) 7 (Johnson 2, Howard, Madden 3, Hilton (P))
NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Phillips pen) 3,459

CREWE (0) 0
HALIFAX (0) 1 (Allatt) 2,291

DARLINGTON (2) 2 (Wicks, Hamilton)
ROCHDALE (0) 0 1,454

PORT VALE (2) 2 (Shankland, Chamberlain (M))
HULL (0) 1 (Mutrie) 2,591

SCUNTHORPE (0) 0
PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Syrett) 2,004

SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 3 (Hatton 2, Trusson)
BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (McEwan) 15,566

TORQUAY (2) 2 (Cooper 2)
BRADFORD (0) 0 3,144

TRANMERE (0) 0
BOURNEMOUTH (1) 1 (Heffernan) 1,730

YORK (1) 3 (Pollard, Ford, Hedley)
HEREFORD (2) 4 (Laidlaw, Dungworth 2, Phillips) 1,600



Rodney Fern, a hat-trick hero for Rotherham.

Scottish Premier

ABERDEEN (1) 1 (Black)
DUNDEE UTD (0) 1 (Milne) 10,000

Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Rougvie, McMaster, Cooper, Miller, Strachan, Simpson, Black, McGhee (Watson), Hewitt.
 Dundee: Graham, Holt, Murray, Phillip (Gough), Hegarty, Narey, Bannion, Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock, Dadds.

AIRDRIE (1) 1 (Clark pen)
CELTIC (1) 3 (Sullivan, McCluskey pen, Burns) 13,500

Airdrie: Davidson, Irwin (Thompson), Anderson, March (Kerr), Rodger, McEwan, Walker, Gordon, Flood, Clark, McGuire.
 Celtic: Bonner, Moyes, Reid, Sullivan, McAdam, Aitken, McLeod, McGarvey, McCluskey, Burns, Nicholas.

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...



DUNDEE 0
HIBS 0 6,011
 Dundee: Geddes, Barr, Glennie (Scrimgeour), MacDonald, Cameron, Bell, Kidd (Stephen), McGeachie, Ferguson, Mackie, Murphy.
 Hibs: McArthur, Sneddon, Schaeidler, Flavell, Paterson, McNamara, Callaghan (Brazil), Rae, MacLeod, Murray, Duncan.

MORTON (0) 0
ST. MIRREN (0) 2 (Stark, McEachran) 4,500
 Morton: Baines, Hayes, Holmes, Docherty, Orr, McLaughlin, Busby (Houston), Rooney, McNeill, Hutchison, Ritchie.
 St. Mirren: Thomson, McCormack, Beckett, Abercrombie, Copland, Young, Stark, McAvennie, Logan (McEachran), Bone, Scanlon.

RANGERS (0) 0
PARTICK (1) 2 (Clark, Johnston) 17,000
 Rangers: Stewart, Jardine, Dawson, Forsyth, Jackson (Redford), Bett, MacDonald, Russell, McAdam, Cooper, Johnston (Johnstone).
 Partick: Rough, Murray, Whittaker, Dunlop, Anderson, McDonald, Park, Doyle, Watson, Johnston (Lapsley), Clark (Higgins).

Scottish First

CLYDEBANK (1) 2 (Fallon, Given) 1,000
AYR (0) 1 (Ahern pen)

DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (Stewart) 2,750
ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 2 (Brannigan 2)

FALKIRK (0) 1 (Brown) 2,500
DUMBARTON (1) 1 (Dunlop)

HAMILTON (0) 2 (McDowall 2) 1,200
QUEEN'S PARK (1) 1 (Crawley)

HEARTS (0) 0
E. STIRLING (0) 1 (Howitt) 5,093

KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Gallagher) 1,900
RAITH (0) 1 (Irvine)

QoS (0) 0
MOTHERWELL (0) 2 (Irvine, McKeever) 2,500

Scottish Second

ALBION (1) 1 (Gillespie) 200
ALLOA (2) 5 (Murray 4, McNab)

BERWICK (1) 4 (Davidson 2, Tait, McCulloch) 979
CLYDE (0) 0

BRECHIN (0) 0
COWDENBEATH (1) 1 (Forrest) 400

E. FIFE (0) 0
ARBROATH (0) 1 (Forsyth) 411

FORFAR (2) 2 (McPhee, Hancock) 937
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 0

MEADOWBANK (1) 2 (Georgeson, Hendrie) 300
STIRLING (1) 1 (Kennedy)

STRANRAER (2) 3 (Dolan, McLaughlan, Sweeney) 300
MONTROSE (2) 5 (Johnston, Campbell, Turnbull, McManus, Milne)

Monday, Nov. 2

Third Division

SOUTHEND (1) 3 (Mercer 2, Cusack) 6,009
GILLINGHAM (0) 0

Panic in the St. Mirren goalmouth as Morton press for a goal.

Fourth Division

MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Morgan) 2,294
COLCHESTER (1) 3 (Allinson 3 (1 pen))

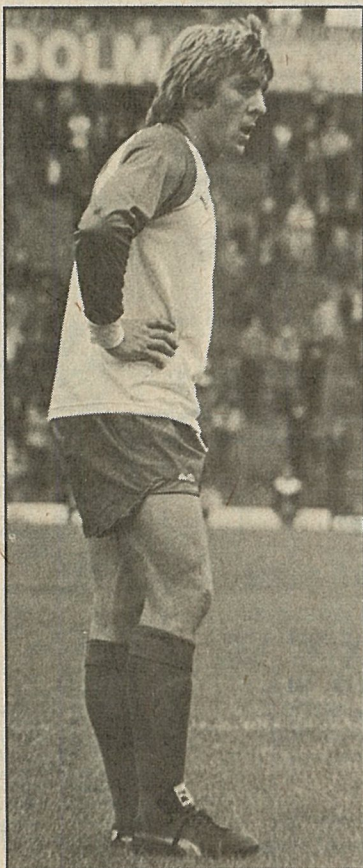
Tuesday, November 3

U.E.F.A. CUP

(Second Round, second-leg)

ARSENAL (1) 2 (Hollins, Rix) 22,930
WINTERSLAG (1) 1 (Billen)
 Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Whyte, McDermott, Vaessen (Davis), Meade, Nicholas, Rix.
 (Agg. 2-2. Winterslag win on away goals)

DUNDEE UTD (2) 5 (Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock, Hegarty, Bannon) 17,000
BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH (0) 0
 Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Murray, Gough, Hegarty, Narey, Bannon, Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock, Dodds.
 (Dundee Utd win 5-2 on agg)

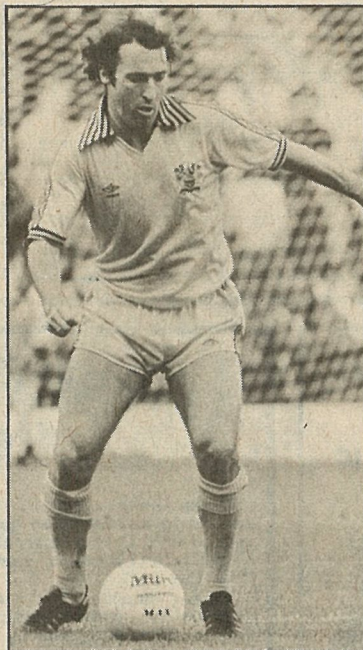


Southend striker Keith Mercer.

Third Division

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 2 (Randall, Williams (D)) 6,464
NEWPORT (0) 0

BURNLEY (0) 1 (Cassidy) 3,455
CHESTER (0) 0



Tommy Cassidy of Burnley.

CARLISLE (1) 2 (Coughlin, Staniforth) 3,725
DONCASTER (0) 0

CHESTERFIELD (0) 1 (Bonnyman pen) 6,847
HUDDESFIELD (0) 0

MILLWALL (1) 2 (Boyle (og), West) 5,002
BRISTOL CITY (0) 0

PLYMOUTH (1) 3 (Cook 2 (1 pen), Sims) 4,915
FULHAM (0) 1 (Davies)

PORTSMOUTH (0) 1 (Cropley) 9,063
WIMBLEDON (0) 0

SWINDON (0) 0
BRENTFORD (2) 3 (Johnson, Bowen, Kamara) 6,369

Fourth Division

BOURNEMOUTH (0) 2 (Spackman, Graham) 5,032
SCUNTHORPE (0) 0

HALIFAX (0) 1 (Graham) 1,523
TORQUAY (0) 2 (Brown, Bourne)

HULL (1) 2 (Marwood, Roberts) 3,340
YORK (0) 0

NORTHAMPTON (0) 1 (Phillips) 4,168
SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 2 (Trusson 2)

ROCHDALE 0
TRANMERE 0 1,663

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, November 21st, 1981

BIRMINGHAM v WOLVES

FEW clubs have a better record on another ground over a long period than Wolves have at Birmingham. Including the earlier games played on the Blues' old ground at Muntz Street before moving to St. Andrews, Wolves have only failed to gain a point in 16 of their 43 League visits, having won 13 and drawn 14 of these games.

Indeed, there was a spell immediately after World War Two when the Wolves were unbeaten in a run of 13 League games at St. Andrews, games which included a 5-1 win in 1957 and 6-3 in 1961. Stars like Jimmy Murray and Norman Deeley scored for Wolves in both those victories.

MIDDLESBROUGH v VILLA

VILLA have drawn six and lost five of their last 11 League games at Middlesbrough. The Villa's most recent win there was in March, 1960, when they were on the way to promotion from the Second Division and Gerry Hitchens got the game's only goal.

Middlesbrough's biggest victory over Villa at Ayresome Park was 6-0 in December, 1948, when Micky Fenton got a hat-trick.

Last December Middlesbrough won 2-1 with goals by Craig Johnston and David Shearer. Gary Shaw scored for Villa.

NOTTM. FOREST v ARSENAL

FRANK STAPLETON scored Arsenal's only goals in each of their last two League games at the City Ground, therefore, now that he is scoring for Manchester United, The Gunners will have to rely on someone else. Two seasons ago Stapleton's goal earned them a point, but last season Arsenal were beaten 3-1.

The point two years ago is Arsenal's only success in their last four visits to Forest. Their most recent League win there was in 1970-71 when Ray Kennedy, Frank McLintock and Charlie George each scored while the home side failed to find the net.

STOKE v IPSWICH

THOSE with long memories recall when Ipswich Town were struggling unsuccessfully to avoid relegation in March, 1964, and were beaten 9-1 at Stoke, including five goals in the second-half. Dennis Viollet got a hat-trick on that remarkable occasion, while Peter Dobing, Jimmy McIlroy (two), John Ritchie (two), and Keith Bebbington got the other goals.

Times have changed since then and Ipswich have lost only three of their 11 more recent League games at the Victoria Ground. Last season's result was a draw 2-2.

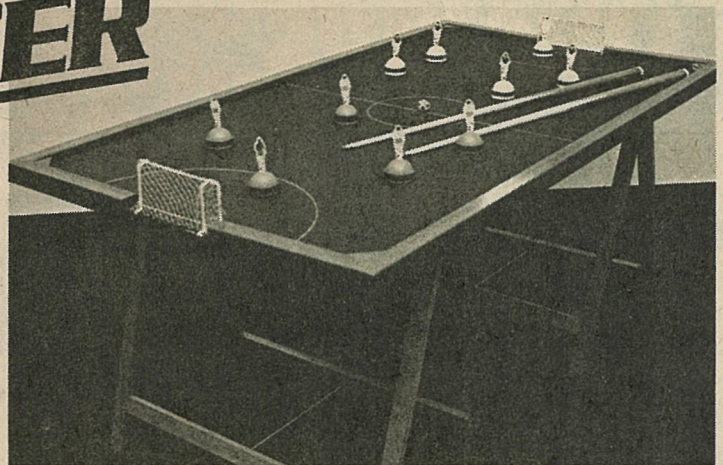
WBA v LIVERPOOL

NOT including the old Test matches this will be the 50th League meeting of these two clubs at West Bromwich. So far the Albion have won 19, Liverpool 15, and 15 have been drawn. At home or away The Throstles have only beaten Liverpool once in their last 13 League clashes. That was last February when Bryan Robson and Cyrille Regis got their goals in a 2-0 win at The Hawthorns.

Cue up for

— the great new game of the 80's.

SNOCCER



3 to be won in this week's exciting SHOOT competition.

FIRST PRIZE the de-luxe 6ft x 40in model complete with cues; goals; ball and ten free-running snoccer men in England and Scotland colours!

2nd Prize — TWO standard table top models 4ft x 32in with all accessories.

tee-shirts for runners-up. All you have to do is answer the questions listed below right. Then paste the coupon on the back of a postcard, or sealed envelope and send to SHOOT/SNOCCER COMPETITION, 55 EWER STREET, LONDON SE9 6YP.

Closing date Monday, December 7th, 1981.

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SHOOT/SNOCCER COMPETITION

NAME.....AGE.....

ADDRESS

My answers are:

1. (a)..... (b)..... (c).....

2. (a)..... (b)..... (c).....

3. (a)..... (b)..... (c).....

Chest size required

1. What nationality are these famous snooker stars... (a) Alex "Hurricane" Higgins (right, American, Northern Irish or Scottish), (b) Steve Davis (Welsh, English or Scottish) and (c) Ray Reardon (Canadian, Welsh or English)?

2. Which clubs play on the following grounds... (a) Pittodrie Park, (b) Ninian Park and (c) Portman Road?



3. Can you name the managers of... (a) Leeds United, (b) Rangers and (c) West Ham?

First Prize will be awarded to the sender of the correct entry judged to be the neatest with age taken into account. Remaining prizes will be awarded for the next 27 best attempts in order of merit. The competition is open to readers in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Channel Isles, the Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland, except employees and their families of IPC Magazines Ltd., McAllister Sports Games Ltd., and the printers of SHOOT. The Editor's decision is final. Winners will be notified and the result published later in SHOOT.

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UMBRO COMPETITION RESULT

In our Umbro competition in August, readers were invited to answer three questions about clubs connected with Umbro International.

The correct answers were:
1 — The U.E.F.A. Cup; 2 — Billy McNeill; 3 — 1971.
Having considered all entries the judges decided that the ten neatest correct entries, with age taken into account, were sent by
Nigel Abramow, Tolworth; Glenn Henry, London N17; Lee Baldwin, Gravesend; Jane Barker, Todmorden; Graeme Buckley, Slough; Julian Hough, Cambridge; Martin Ford, Eastleigh; Cathy Oldham, Manchester; Michael Sheehan, London NW2; Ian Warwick, Acliam.

Each receives an Umbro International Top Team soccer kit.

The senders of the ten next best entries each receive a Compact Sports bag, they are:

David Bradshaw, Basildon; William Brookes, Worcester; Matthew Broughton, Tarnworth; Grant Buchanan, Aberdeen; Robert Clarke, Havant; Garry Fowler, Swindon; Edmund Plummer, London SE20; Gregory Rudd, Corringham; Howard Samuels, London N14; Peter Williams, Bedford.

LE COQ SPORTIF COMPETITION RESULT

In our Le Coq Sportif competition in August, readers were invited to answer four questions about this year's F.A. Charity Shield Finalists, Aston Villa and Spurs.

The correct answers were:
1 — 1910; 2 — 1901; 3 — Coventry City; 4 — Pat Jennings.

Having considered all entries the judges chose the 25 neatest correct entries, with age taken into account, as being the best received. The senders of these are:

Paul Adams, Chatham; Sean Bennett, Huddersfield; Raymond Berg, Wembley; Campbell Crawford, Ayrshire; Richard Crossland, Brighton; Stephen Daymon, London N9; Mark Farley, Sheringham; David Firth, Bath; Tim Francis, Saffron Walden; David Heasman, South Harrow; Derek Hogan, Solihull; Paul Hughes, Sutton Coldfield; Darrel McGladdery, Shaldon; Michael Plimmer, Warley; Neil Richardson, Sunderland; Mark Saxby, Newark; Robert Smithson, Sunderland; M. T. Srouds, Bolton; Jonathan Taylor, Leeds; Graham Waller, Watford; Neil Wayman, Sunderland; Robert Williams, Llanelli; Paul Wilson, Birmingham; Trevor Wilson, Romford; Allan Woodcock, Rotherham.

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It's through not keeping our minds on our job for the full 90 minutes, allowing our concentration to slip.

This Liverpool lapse was glaringly exposed in four particular games. When we allowed Brighton to draw 3-3 at the Goldstone Ground after being in the lead at three stages. Giving away two goals in the last ten minutes in our first-leg European Cup-tie against AZ67 Alkmaar in Holland to allow them to draw; and then letting them peg back twice in



PHIL THOMPSON
My soccer world

the return and only winning with a bravely-taken goal from Alan Hansen.

But probably the worst result of all, because it happened in front of our own crowd at Anfield, came when slackness at the back permitted Manchester United to score in the last minute and inflict our first home defeat of the season.

But one of Liverpool's great strengths is being able to get together with the boss, Bob Paisley, and his assistants, to analyse the problem and work out ways to beat it.

From now on you'll see a Reds team paying attention for every second of a match and not easing off.



If we can put together one of our famous unbeaten runs, we'll be right back amongst the leaders in the Championship race.

Three points for a win makes it easier to bridge the gap. Thanks to the new system, Manchester United leap-frogged from the foot of the table to the top in the space of six weeks.

I don't attribute the increase in goals to its introduction. I believe the trend began last season.

I'm much more in favour of only awarding the three points for an away win, to give visitors the

incentive to attack, and devising some way of giving bonus points for goals above a certain figure.

Probably the most stimulating thing about this season is how wide open the title race has become, with several teams in contention, many of them "new faces."

Swansea City, managed by my old team-mate John Toshack, are the prime example. From the Fourth Division to League Championship prospects in five seasons is like something out of Roy of the Rovers.

Tosh has used a lot of Liverpool players, and methods, to work his

'A bravely-taken goal by Alan Hansen'

consistency that comes only with experience, but they'll finish high enough to qualify for next season's U.E.F.A. Cup.

Another of my old team-mates, Ray Clemence, plays for those other surprise-packets, Spurs. They've always been able to score goals and now, thanks to Ray's talents, are better organised and much harder to score against.

Fellow Londoners, and newly-promoted like Swansea, West Ham have developed into a side full of skill and character. They had an off day, probably through being overawed by our reputation, on our League visit to Upton Park and allowed us to come away with a point.

Ipswich Town are still the biggest danger to Liverpool, and so far the challenge from Champions Aston Villa hasn't materialised. I suspect

'SLACK AT THE BACK—that's Liverpool's problem'

Manchester United's Arthur Albiston stuns the Anfield crowd with a last-gasp goal.



particular "miracle," and struck a real high point in his career when his team came to Anfield in October for their first-ever League match.

It was an emotion-charged day for Tosh, back on his old hunting ground, shortly after his guiding light, Bill Shankly, our former great manager, had died.

As Tosh stood with his team before the kick-off in homage to Shanks, and wearing his old Liverpool shirt, it seemed to give backing to the rumour that he is destined to succeed Bob Paisley as our future boss.

What's important to bear in mind is that every ex-player who has gone into management has been hailed as a future Liverpool manager!

If Tosh should eventually get the post, he'll most likely bring along his present right-hand man, Phil Boersma, another of my old buddies.

I can't see Swansea winning the First Division, as they lack the

they're suffering from the same problem all title-holders face — every opponent pulls out that little bit extra.

There are just as many surprises at the bottom end of the table as at the top.

Internal problems have harmed West Bromwich Albion. I think manager Ronnie Allen made a mistake trying to hang on to Remi Moses and Bryan Robson. It would have been better if he'd let them go earlier to Manchester United and concentrated on finding replacements.

However, West Brom still have a nucleus of campaign-hardened, fine professionals in John Wile, Gary Owen, Derek Statham and Cyrille Regis and they'll combine to give us a hard game at The Hawthorns this Saturday.

Phil Thompson

'Our worst defeat'



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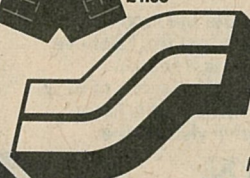
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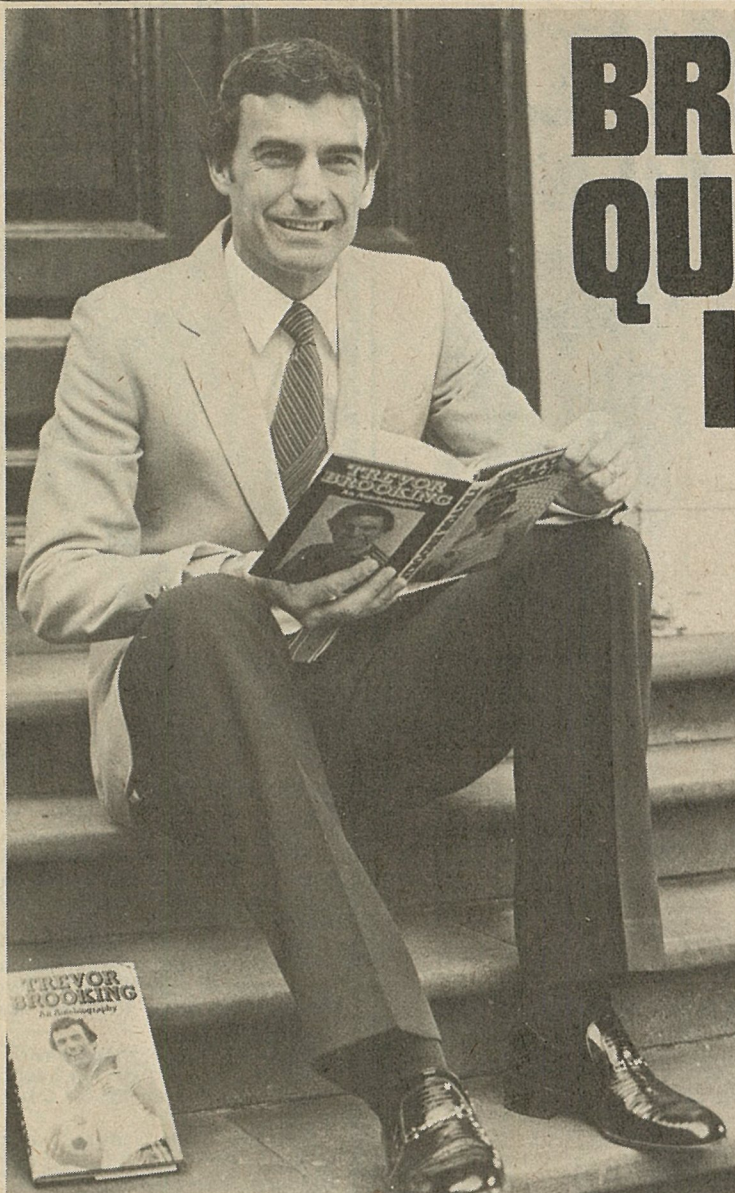
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BROOKING WILL QUIT HAMMERS IN 1983



tennis and actually made Trevor sweat.

But dull Brooking isn't. He recalls the flight home from Budapest after he had scored twice in England's 3-1 victory.

The pilot announced: "We're flying at 550 miles an hour — slower than Trevor's first, but faster than his second!"

When his playing career is over — his West Ham contract ends in the summer of 1983 — Brooking will almost certainly opt out of football full time.

In 1983 he will be 34 and has his eyes on a season or two in the United States.

Brooking is involved in the developing of land near Disney World, Florida, which comprises golf courses, swimming pools, tennis courts and soccer pitches.

Trevor would like to spend about half the year in Florida and half in England while the scheme gets off the ground. The West Ham star also has several business interests back home.

"Most evenings I have some book-keeping or paper work to do at home. If I have nothing to do I'm liable to slump into a chair and relax.

"This kind of attitude can spill

over on to the football pitch — I operate much better when I have plenty to occupy me.

"One job I won't be taking when I retire is that of a manager. It's too precarious, even more so than being a player.

"Running a club these days is such a huge responsibility that it is, I believe, beyond the powers of one man to do it properly. It's time we copied the Continental system of dividing the job in two parts, a team manager who looks after the playing side and a general manager who is responsible for the financial aspects.

'Argue'

"It's too much to expect a manager to argue with a player one day about a contract and the next day ask him to play for him in a vital match.

"I don't agree with Tommy Docherty that a manager has to be a liar and a cheat. The successful manager must have a number of qualities.

"First he must be a good coach, he must command respect, be ruthless when necessary, be a shrewd businessman and a public relations officer."

Ironically Trevor Brooking fills all these requirements; football will be all the worse without him.

*Trevor Brooking — An Autobiography (Pelham Books, £6.96).

WHEN you list Trevor Brooking's qualities, he hardly fits the popular image of the English footballer. He's teetotal, would only permit himself to say "ouch" if he hit his thumb with a hammer, he's eloquent, has been singled out for his appearance off the field and is the sort of person every mother would like her daughter to marry.

The lucky mother-in-law happens to be Finnish, whose daughter Hilka is most unlikely to write a book — as some soccer wives have done recently.

However, her husband has — and if the title "Trevor Brooking, An Autobiography" is somewhat uncontroversial, it fits Brooking's image perfectly.

It's the sort of book you'd expect from the player. Interesting, informative, full of opinions with only the merest hint of criticism.

Commenting on Brian Clough's verdict of Brooking — "he floats like a butterfly and stings like one" — Trevor merely says: "I don't know why Brian Clough dislikes me, except that we are opposites and that might have provoked him."

They call Brooking 'Hadleigh', after the television character played by Gerald Harper who always looked as if he had just visited Vidal Sassoon and Savile Row. Kevin Keegan considers it a great achievement that on an England tour he played Brooking at



Trevor shows his style on the pitch — at the expense of the Everton defence at Upton Park this season.

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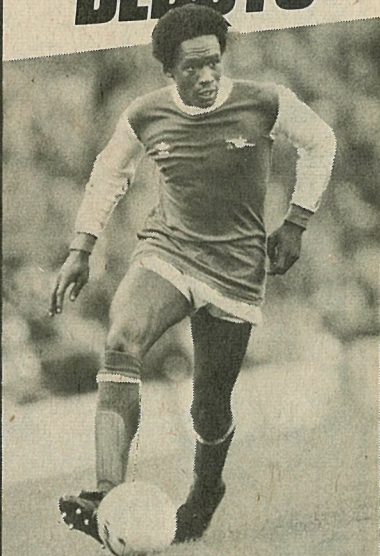
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DRAMATIC DEBUTS



RAPHAEL Meade (above) is learning to live with the pressure quicker than most young players, for his early goalscoring form has brought the hopes and expectations of thousands down on his shoulders.

The 18-year-old striker scored with his first kick in senior football for Arsenal in their UEFA Cup First Round clash away to Greek aces Panathinaikos.

And he followed that up with a vital matchwinner on his League debut against Manchester City at Highbury.

Now the Arsenal fans are hoping he can maintain that sort of form and help to compensate for the £1 million loss of Frank Stapleton.

"The goal against Panathinaikos was the greatest moment of my life," recalls Meade. "But, oddly, I gained greater satisfaction from the goal against City."

"Scoring at Highbury proved to a few people that my earlier goal was no fluke. Now I've got to look to keep up that sort of form."

Another youngster who has revived great expectations with a goalscoring debut is Danny Greaves. He netted in his first full game for Southend at Chesterfield.

It was hardly surprising that he should make such a dramatic impact, for he was only following in the tradition of dad Jimmy.

The former goalscoring legend was on target in his first games for Chelsea juniors, reserves and first team, for AC Milan, for Spurs' reserves and first team, for West Ham, for England Under-23's and for the full England team.

Another international star, Sammy McIlroy, netted on his debut for Manchester United — against arch rivals Manchester City. That was at Maine Road in a 3-3 draw in November, 1971.

But will anyone ever beat the remarkable first appearance of J. Dyet of King's Park?

He netted EIGHT times against Forfar in a Scottish Second Division game in January, 1930 when his team won 12-2.

A COUPLE of hundred spectators shivered on the vast, empty terraces as the player who was once hailed as the hottest property in football, as well as being the "new George Best", made his return to Britain.

Peter Marinello, one time golden boy of Arsenal a decade ago, was playing for Hearts' reserves. But this time there were no huge headlines. No comparisons with world greats.

Marinello, now 30, came back to Scotland on a £25,000 transfer from North American Indoor Outfit Phoenix Inferno and he declared: "I'm a wiser player this time around."

"I haven't lost my ambition and I still think I have something to offer the game."

"Hearts are heading back to the Premier Division and that's where I want to be. The manager, Tony Ford, has paid me a great compliment by coming for me. I could have been forgotten in the States."

Marinello's wanderings through soccer have been nothing short of amazing. He burst upon the scene



MARINELLO MAKES HEARTS 'CERTS' TO GO UP

as a teenager with Hibs in the side that boasted such fine players as Pat Stanton, Peter Cormack and Colin Stein.

Arsenal's former manager Bertie Mee was sufficiently impressed by the mesmerising skills of the swift and skilful outside-right to part with £100,000 — a big fee in those days — for his talents.

Cherished dreams of glory had to be shelved and no one could have blamed Marinello from being more than slightly disillusioned as he packed his bags and moved in a cut price deal to Portsmouth.

Marinello tried to revive his career and there was talk of Jock Stein pondering about a bid to take the player to Celtic, but while that deal was talked about Motherwell moved in with a £35,000 offer and

the hard-up Fratton Park outfit happily accepted.

Things came to an abrupt halt at Fir Park when Ally MacLeod swept in with a new broom and promptly sold Marinello to Fulham.

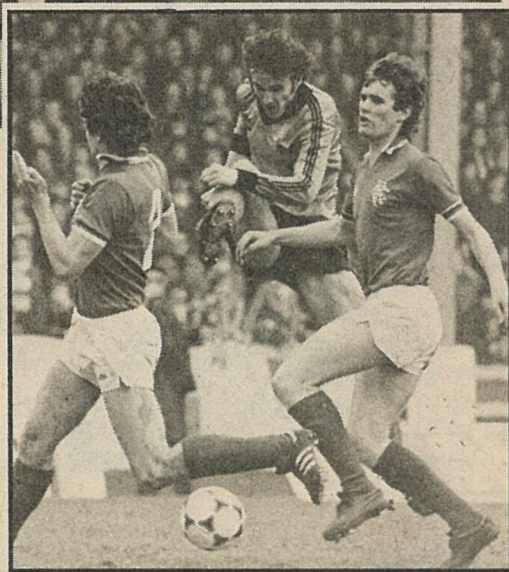
"I had been looking for a winger since the start of the season," admits Hearts manager Tony Ford.

"When I heard Peter was available I didn't hesitate. I had fancied Willie Johnston, of Rangers, but dropped that interest when Marinello came on the market."

With Marinello, older and wiser, raiding on the wings with the likes of Willie Pettigrew snapping up the half chances Hearts are certain to take the trip upstairs.

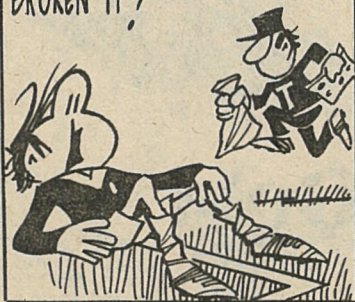
ABOVE: All smiles at Tynecastle for Hearts boss Tony Ford and new signing Peter Marinello.

RIGHT: Willie Pettigrew in action for Dundee Utd against Rangers. Now Pettigrew is on target for Hearts.



NOBBY

OH! MY LEG! I THINK HE'S BROKEN IT!



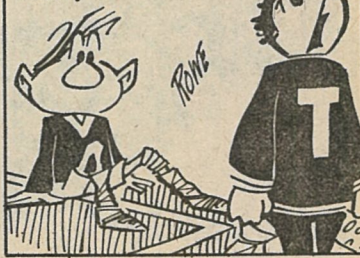
NO IT'S O.K. BUT IT'S A PITY IT WASN'T THE OTHER ONE



WHY, WHAT HAVE YOU GOT AGAINST MY RIGHT LEG?



NOTHING, BUT IT HAPPENS TO BE IN THE PENALTY AREA!



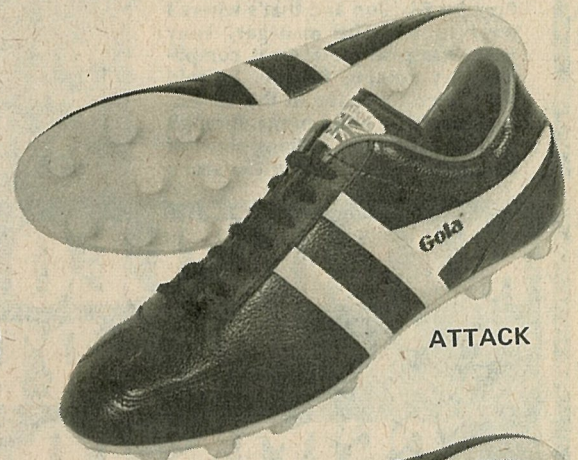


If it's a question of choice—

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Hughes**
and choose
Gola



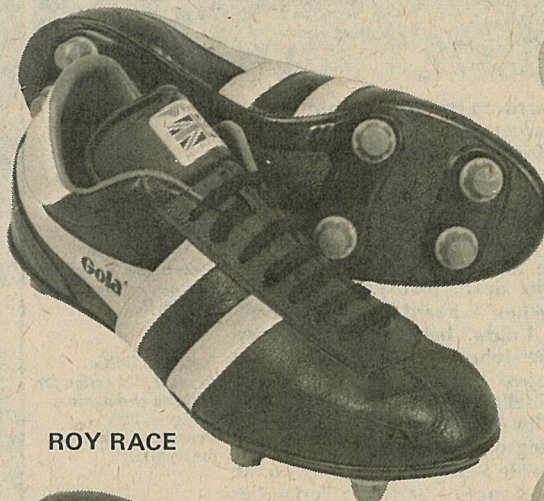
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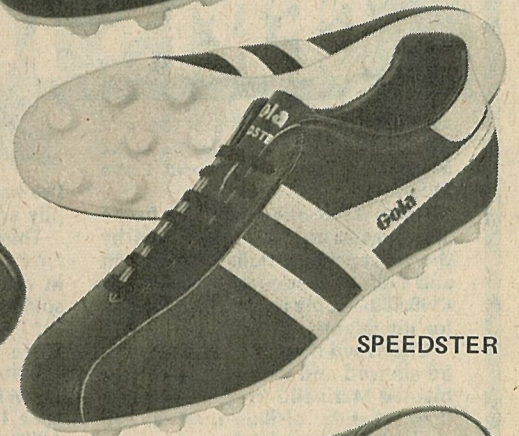
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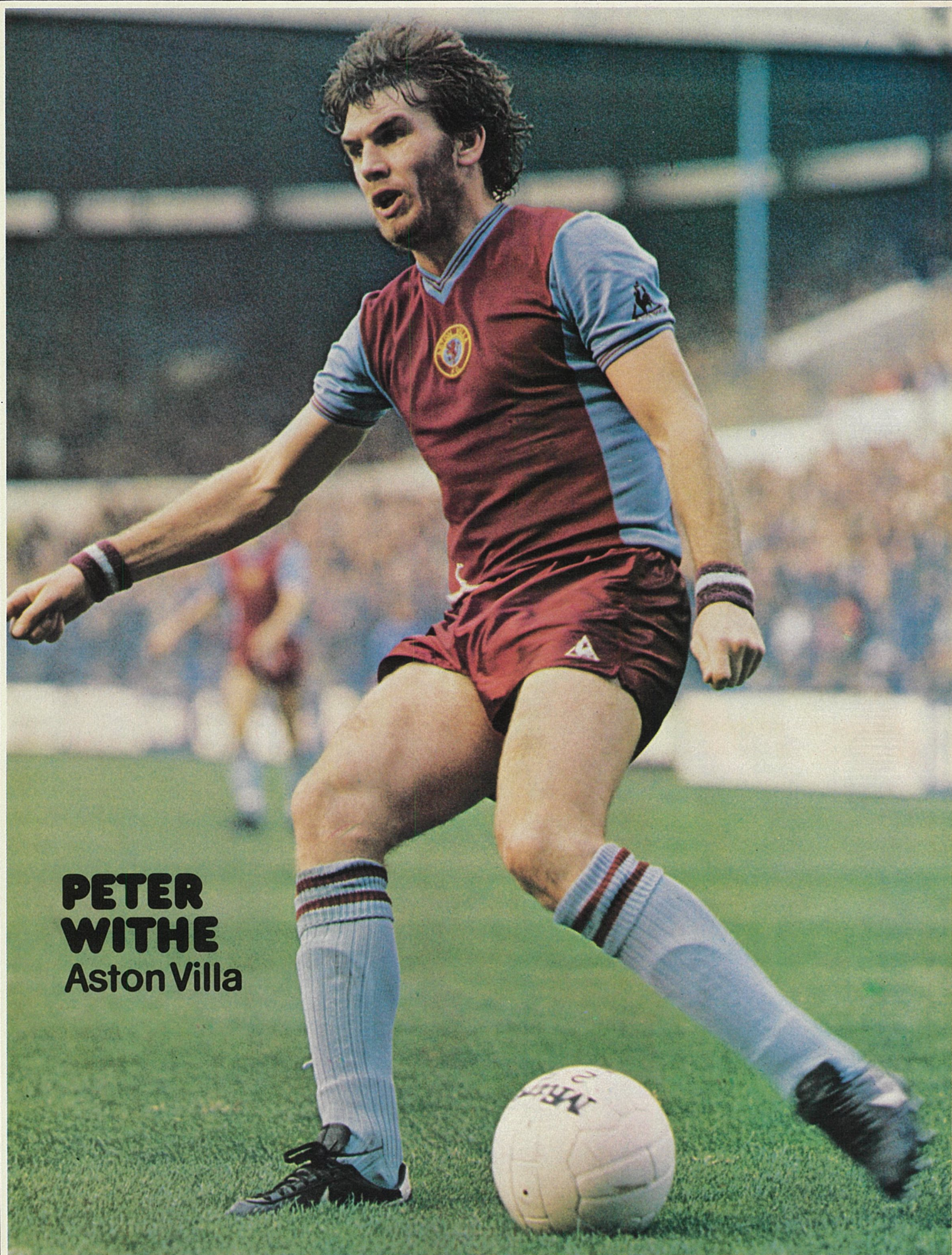
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**PETER
WITHE**
Aston Villa

SHOOT!

Stoke City's high-scoring striker Lee Chapman is just wide on this occasion, watched closely by Manchester City defender Nicky Reid.



SHOOT!

McGarvey would like to play in England again

THE passage of time has taught Frank McGarvey the wisdom of experience. The angry youngster who stormed out of Liverpool 18 months ago, dejected and humiliated, wears a wiser cloak as a 25-year-old.

Celtic's highly successful investment in the player Liverpool discarded has been a delight to half of Glasgow. McGarvey, since his return to Scotland, has scored 35 goals in 36 games. Celtic won last season's Scottish Premier Division and were rewarded with European Cup action, this season.

Yet McGarvey admits: "I still think about Liverpool. That is no discredit to Celtic, for I love the club and I love living in Glasgow. But the past is as fresh in my mind as it ever was.

"I feel I was desperately unlucky at Anfield. It was a totally new experience for me. At the time, it was like going into a strae world. I didn't particularly like living in Liverpool, but I wanted to succeed."

McGarvey felt his chance would come after a run of a dozen reserve games in which he scored 12 goals. "David Johnson was injured, David Fairclough wasn't playing too well and I felt I would get in. It was a League match against Ipswich and I felt good, in prime form.

"But I had the substitute's shirt that day. I knew I had to go after that. All I'd wanted was a chance to prove myself, just a few matches. But I never received that chance and I doubted whether I ever would.

"I am a lot wiser now," he says, looking back. "If the same thing happened again, I wouldn't be so hasty and ask to go. But I felt I had to go.

"But I feel I would do much better if I tried

again in England. I would know what to do, what to expect the next time. I wouldn't want to go back to Liverpool but I'd like to try the South, at some stage.

"I'll be 27 when my contract ends at Celtic and that might be the time to think about it."

McGarvey isn't a bitter young man for his failure at Liverpool. Indeed, he is now aware of the Anfield system and recognises what he learned as vital to his maturity as a footballer.

"If I had stayed, I would have had my chance — I believe that. I was too impatient and too aware that football is a short career. I didn't want to waste two or three years in the reserves.

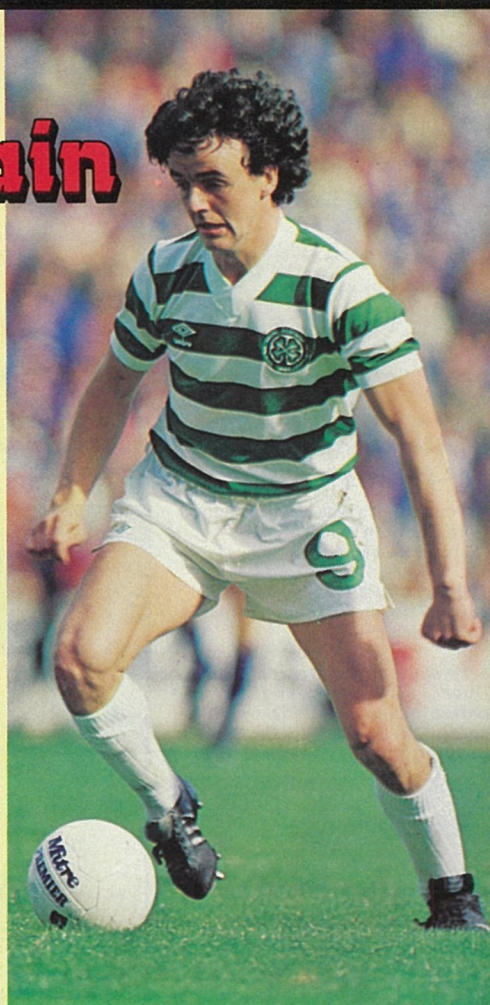
'Regretted'

"But I'd always wanted to play for Celtic and when the chance came up, I jumped at it. I must say, I have never regretted the move."

Celtic bought a player who, whether he realised it or not, had learned some astute facts of the footballing life at Anfield.

"Liverpool are so professional, it's incredible. Even though things didn't work for me there, I'll always be grateful for what I learned while I was with them."

Perhaps the greatest lesson McGarvey has learned is the importance of patience. But perhaps Liverpool, in their current dearth of goals, have also learned a lesson. The value of public relations between a club and its players, cannot be over-emphasised. McGarvey's remarkable goalscoring record for the top club in Scotland since then, indicates he was not the only loser in the separation.



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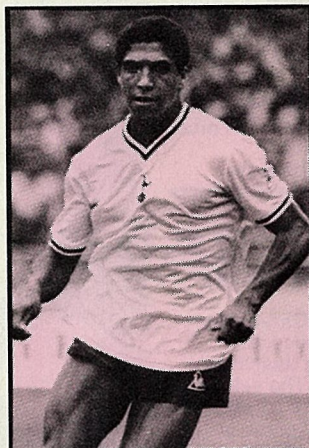
TAKE A BREAK IT'S QUIZ TIME

Try tackling this special quiz and see if you can answer the following 25 questions. Award yourself one point for each correct answer.

1. Stan Bowles was transferred from Orient to which Third Division club recently?
2. Derby County full-back Steve Buckley began his League career with which club?
3. He spent spells as manager of Queens Park Rangers and Millwall before joining an American club as coach. Can you identify the man pictured below?



4. Which one of these players — Ray Clemence (now Spurs), Phil Thompson or Terry McDermott — did not play in Liverpool's three European Cup winning sides of 1977, 1978 and 1981?
5. Is it true that Brighton's Mike Robinson was born in England but qualifies for the Republic of Ireland because of the parents rule?
6. Which two Second Division clubs are in action below?



7. Tottenham's Chris Hughton (above) made his full international debut for the Republic of Ireland against U.S.A. or Canada in October, 1978, 1979 or 1980?

8. From which countries do these clubs come: (a) Ferencváros, (b) Santos and (c) Winterslag?
9. What is wrong with this statement? West Brom's Cyrille Regis scored his first hat-trick of the season against Birmingham City in a 3-3 draw at St Andrews recently?
10. Coventry City's Gary Gillespie is an Under-21 international for which country?
11. Can you name the four clubs who won their respective Football League titles last season?
12. Who played in goal for Ipswich Town when they beat Arsenal 1-0 at Wembley to win the 1978 F.A. Cup?
13. Rearrange the jumbled letters to find the name of one of Britain's top defenders. . . . XEALCHISLEM (EDANEREB).
14. Which two clubs will contest this season's Scottish League Cup Final at Hampden Park?
15. Wales are in Group Three of the World Cup qualifying section. Can you name the other four countries in the Group?

16. If Ivan Katalinic saved a penalty from John Barnes in a Cup-tie which two clubs would be in action?

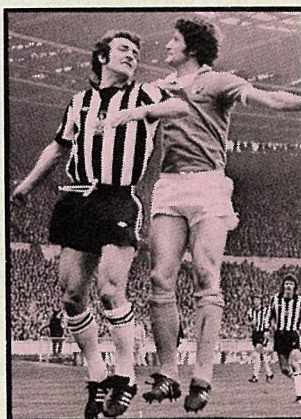
17. Kevin Mabbutt was transferred from Bristol City to Crystal Palace recently. Which London player moved in the opposite direction as part of the deal?

18. In which position does Hamish McAlpine play for Scottish Premier Division club Dundee United?

19. Was former Arsenal and Scotland defender Frank McLintock a member of Leicester City's 1968-69 F.A. Cup Final side which lost 1-0 to Manchester City at Wembley?

20. True or false? Manchester United's Gary Bailey was born in South Africa?

21. Who scored Manchester City's winning goal against Newcastle United in the 1976 League Cup Final at Wembley (below)?



22. Chelsea have had ten managers since the last War. Billy Birrell, Ted Drake, Tommy Docherty, Dave Sexton, Ron Suart, Eddie McCreadie, Ken Shellito, Geoff Hurst and John Neal are nine. . . can you name the other one?

23. Birmingham City's Colin Todd began his League career with which club?

24. After just 10 games for Everton, former Wrexham and Manchester United star Mickey Thomas was transferred to which club for £400,000 recently?

25. Craig Madden has been scoring goals regularly for which Fourth Division club this season?

Rating: 20-25 Excellent; 15-19 Very good; Under 15 Average.

ANSWERS

1. Brentford, 2. Luton, 3. Gordon Jago, 4. Phil Thompson, 5. Yes, 6. Crystal Palace and Rotherham, 7. U.S.A. in 1979, 8. (a) Hungary, (b) Brazil, (c) Belgium, 9. It was his second hat-trick of the season, 10. Scotland, 11. First, Aston Villa; Second, West Ham; Third, Rotherham; Fourth, Southampton, 12. Paul Cooper, 13. Alex McLeish (Aberdeen), 14. Rangers and Dundee United, 15. U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Iceland and Turkey, 16. Southampton and Watford, 17. Terry Boyle, 18. Goalkeeper, 19. Yes, 20. False — he was born in Ipswich, 21. Dennis Tueart, 22. Danny Blanchflower, 23. Sunderland, 24. Brighton, 25. Bury.

ON THE BALL ANSWERS

ACROSS:—(1) Gas. (3) Watford. (5) Bonds. (7) Tweak. (11) Terry Neill. (12) Stag. (14) Pole. (15) Gillingham. (16) Stays. (19) Osman. (21) Channon. (22) Nor.
DOWN:—(1) Gates. (2) Shoot. (3) Win. (4) Due. (5) Birtles. (6) Donaghy. (8) Wilkins. (9) Kitchen (10) Mills. (11) Tip. (13) Gum. (17) Arc. (18) Swain. (19) Owner. (20) Man.

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THE arrival of costly signings Justin Fashanu and Mark Proctor have captured most attention in the birth of a new, young Nottingham Forest this season.

But the form of a youngster who didn't cost Brian Clough and Peter Taylor a penny is causing as much satisfaction for the Forest management.

The player is 21-year-old Stuart Gray, who made his mark in Forest's midfield last season but who is now etching out a future for himself as a First Division full-back.

Forest had to find a new left-back in the summer when they decided to sell Frank Gray back to

well against Real Madrid at left-back and more or less set myself standards to maintain.

"Positional play has been the big difference. In midfield I knew there was always someone behind me to cover but, more often than not, playing in the back-four means you are the last line before Peter Shilton.

"I've had to educate myself not to follow the ball and be aware of when we are trying to push up to

Aston Villa's Tony Morley, Peter Barnes, of Leeds, and our own John Robertson come to mind as players who attack down the left but there are not many who operate solely on the right."

Whether he's had to do a marking job or venture forward in an attacking role, Gray has made his mark with his crisp and solid tackling ability, general awareness and sheer determination to succeed.

As Brian Clough points out: "He's such a whole-hearted and honest player and has enough going for him in terms of natural

CLOUGH BACKS GRAY

Leeds after two years at the City Ground, and while there was talk in the Midlands that Derby's Steve Buckley was being lined up as a replacement, Clough and Taylor handed the job to Stuart Gray.

His first match in the new position was against European Cup Finalists Real Madrid in a summer friendly in Spain and since then he's established himself there in the League side.

He admits: "It was strange to start with after being used to playing in midfield but as long as I am in the side I'll play anywhere on the field.

"I'm still getting used to the job in some ways, but I thought I did

catch the opposition offside but although it's taking time, I am enjoying it."

And he doesn't mind one bit having the responsibility to mark a winger.

He added: "One of my best games so far was when we faced Manchester United at Old Trafford and I knew that Steve Coppell would be trying to get past me.

"Having a player to mark somehow makes the job easier than when you have got midfield players breaking forward occasionally.

"The unfortunate thing is that most out-and-out wingers in the First Division are left-sided.

ability that he cannot fail.

"It's early days for him as a full-back but it appears to me that he saw that there was an opening for him in the number three shirt and decided he was going to make it his."

Stuart's namesake was a great favourite with the City Ground fans. But so well has the youngster adapted to his new role they have forgiven Brian Clough for selling the Scottish international back to Leeds United.

Clough and Peter Taylor have a reputation for discovering new talent.

It's a safe bet fans everywhere will be hearing a great deal of one of their latest discoveries.



WEEK after dreary week, for two and a half months, 19-year-old Steve Nicol was making the weekly visit to his local unemployment office. Another teenager on the dole picking up his £20 a week or so...

Now, though, things have changed. And Nicol, full-back in Scotland's Under-21 team and a part-time player with Ayr United, has moved to Liverpool.

The Anfield club paid out around £300,000 for the player who had also been wanted at one stage by Rangers and then had been under scrutiny by Arsenal.

Yet Nicol admitted: "Even if I'd been given the choice of club then I would have picked Liverpool. They are the best side in the country, the side that any young player wants to go to.

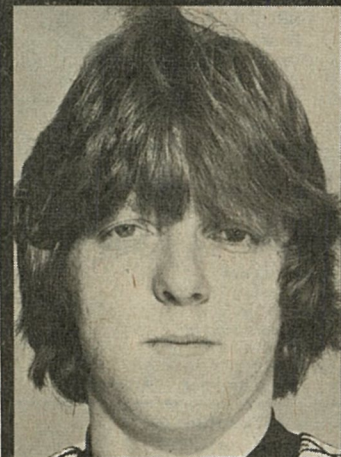
"I didn't say to Ayr that was the only place I'd go — but when the boss there, Willie McLean, told me Liverpool were in then it was just perfect for me."

Nicol has played in all back-four positions for Ayr and has also appeared in midfield for them — that's where he started out.

For the Scottish Under-21 side he has played in both full-back positions and it's there that he prefers to play.

"I'd play anywhere the club wanted me to go," he says, "but either of the full-back positions is where I prefer. I don't really care which side.

STEVE NICOL



from the
dole queue
to Anfield

"I'm looking forward to going full time. And I'm hoping that I can do well enough to get a chance in the first team soon. That's got to be what I am aiming for.

"Still, Liverpool are the kind of club where sometimes you have to be patient and I know that, too. It's nice to be going where there are so many Scots players. Kenny Dalglish, Alan Hansen and Graeme Souness are all there of course and I'm sure they'll help me settle in."

Nicol wouldn't be drawn on the problems which Celtic striker Frank McGarvey claimed to face when he had his unhappy season with the Anfield club.

Ayr boss Willie McLean stressed, though: "That was a problem another player might have had. I don't think it applies to Steve's position.

Good Enough

"They have looked at the boy, seen him play for us and for the Scotland Under-21 team and they have decided that he is good enough for them.

"I don't think there's any doubt that Liverpool are buying for the future in getting him. That's the way they always work."

Nicol added quietly: "I think they must believe in me to spend this kind of cash to sign me. That makes me happy for a start.

"They wouldn't be buying me if they didn't think I was good enough for them. And they are the European Champions!"

The teenager is a product of Ayr United Boys' Club and stepped up to the reserve team two years ago.

He recalls: "I think I was the first player that Willie McLean took from the Boys' Club.

"Just under a year ago Rangers were after me but the club didn't want to sell me then.

"I was happy to be guided by them... and I'm glad now that they held off.

"I know that I'm still learning about the game and I don't think that there's a better place to be than Anfield."

So far Nicol has won three Under-21 caps for the Scots and even if he is in the Anfield reserves hopes that Scotland boss Jock Stein won't forget him.

It would seem unlikely. Stein has been a staunch admirer of the player. Now that he has gone to a top club that admiration is unlikely to diminish.

Says Nicol: "I want to stay in the Under-21 team because we have done well enough to reach the last eight of the European Championship.

"It would be good to help the side go further. Being full time is bound to help me improve.

"That's the most important thing of all right now — then my target has to be a place in the Liverpool team."

The fee will take care of little Ayr's financial problems for a long time — yet it could still turn out that Nicol has been another bargain for that shrewd buyer of stars Bob Paisley.

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Aberdeen and Dundee Utd. fly the flag in Europe

THE YEAR OF THE SCOTS

DESPITE the claim of Spurs' cockerel, 1981 has been the Year of the Scots. Steve Archibald ended his first season in Division One as top scorer; Alan Hansen's header won the League Cup for Liverpool; Scotland always looked like qualifying for the World Cup Finals; and now Aberdeen and Dundee United fly the flag for Britain in the UEFA Cup.

That's enough to bring a smile to the face of any Dons or United fan, yet the smile is ever wider as Aberdeen deservedly beat UEFA Cup holders Ipswich Town, and now United have a chance to succeed where Arsenal failed against the part-timers of Winterslag.

Not even Jim McLean could have expected his side to score five goals against Monaco and then Borussia Monchengladbach in the first two rounds.

The Tannadice club can well

claim to be the team of Europe so far, yet they have been threatening to make a really big name for themselves for a while.

Under the shrewd leadership of Jim McLean, who gives a new meaning to the phrase 'no-nonsense', United have become arguably the most attractive side in Scotland.

McLean has guided United to four Cup Finals in the past three years and few would be surprised if they beat Rangers in the League Cup Final next Saturday.

United operate on gates of around 6,000, yet thanks to McLean's coaching and management United's accounts look healthy. The team that thrashed Borussia cost only £200,000 and most of that was spent on one player, Eamonn Bannon.

Winterslag's defeat of Arsenal is

a surprise only until you look at The Gunners' form this season. Arsenal have had some great years in Europe, but at the moment they have all sorts of problems and were there for the taking.

United will be hot favourites to beat Winterslag — in fact their record in the UEFA Cup this season

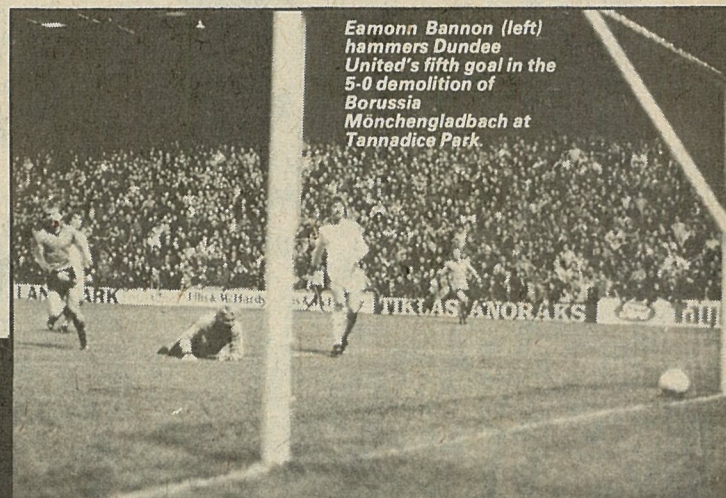
UEFA CUP

— Third Round draw

Aberdeen v Hamburger SV
IFK Gothenburg v Dinamo Bucharest
KFC Winterslag v Dundee Utd
KSC Lokeren v Kaiserslautern
Radnicki Nis v Feyenoord
Real Madrid v Rapid Vienna
Sporting Lisbon v Neuchatel Xamax
Valencia v Hajduk Split

First legs to be played on Nov. 25.

Second legs on December 9.



Eamonn Bannon (left) hammers Dundee United's fifth goal in the 5-0 demolition of Borussia Monchengladbach at Tannadice Park.

EURO NOTES

WINTERSLAG ... have never won a Championship or Cup in Belgium. They qualified for Europe for the first time by finishing fifth in the Belgian League last season.

HAMBURGER SV ... have won the Bundesliga once and the old German Championship four times. They've won the German Cup twice and have been in Europe on 12 occasions.

EUROPEAN CUP ... The last eight for the Quarter-Finals, to be played next Spring, are:

Liverpool, Aston Villa, Bayern Munich (West Germany), Red Star (Yugoslavia), Anderlecht (Belgium), CSKA (Bulgaria), Univ. Craiova (Rumania) and Dynamo Kiev (USSR).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP ... The Quarter-Finalists are: Spurs, FC Porto (Portugal), Legia Warsaw (Poland), Eintracht Frankfurt (West Germany), Barcelona (Spain), Standard Liege (Belgium), Loko Leipzig (East Germany), Dinamo Tbilisi (USSR).

WEST GERMANY ... leads the way after the first two rounds of the three European Cup competitions. Here's a guide to how many clubs each country has left — note that all of Italy's representatives have been knocked out:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| West Germany | 4 |
| Belgium | 3 |
| England | 3 |
| Spain | 3 |
| Yugoslavia | 3 |
| Portugal | 2 |
| Rumania | 2 |
| Scotland | 2 |
| USSR | 2 |
| Austria | 1 |
| Belgium | 1 |
| Bulgaria | 1 |
| East Germany | 1 |
| Holland | 1 |
| Poland | 1 |
| Sweden | 1 |
| Switzerland | 1 |



Aberdeen's Gordon Strachan masterminds his side's victory over UEFA Cup holders Ipswich Town in the First Round. Now the little midfield star will be looking to help The Dons to victory over West German aces Hamburger SV in the Third Round.

give them a right to feel confident about beating just about anyone.

Aberdeen made English critics and fans sit up and take notice when they came down to Portman Road and put on a display against Ipswich that ranked with the best seen in European competition at East Anglia.

It was no fluke — and there aren't many teams you'd back to beat Ipswich over two legs.

Like Jim McLean, Aberdeen manager — Alex Ferguson who prefers to let his team do the talking. Two seasons ago Aberdeen broke a 15-year stranglehold on the Old Firm domination of the Championship and Fergie has some of the best players in Britain at his disposal.

Is there a better central defensive partnership than Alex McLeish and Willie Miller? Name a midfield man who has the all-round qualities of Gordon Strachan, whom many English clubs would love to buy? And on his day Scotland's record buy Peter Weir is a winger virtually unstoppable.

Hamburger SV will be a big test for The Dons. They have the one and only Franz Beckenbauer marshalling their defence, along with Manny Kaltz, although the latter has appeared in midfield lately.

There's Felix Magath and Horst Hrubesch to supply goal-power and HSV are the top scorers in the Bundesliga, averaging just under three goals per game.

What a boost for Scottish soccer if Aberdeen and Dundee United could reach the last eight.

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GARRY Stanley believes the Welsh wizards at Swansea City will help him to put some silverware into his barren trophy cupboard.

At 27, he feels it is time he started winning a few things.

"You don't have to be with one of the recognised 'big clubs' these days to do that," says the elegant midfielder player.

"I spent two seasons with Everton and we never looked like doing anything, despite the set-up being geared to success."

Stanley joined Swansea in October, having spent two months in the wilderness. He refused to

we came home Howard didn't seem too bothered whether I signed a new contract or not.

"I was content to sit tight for a while and see how things developed. Even when the team wasn't doing well early in the season I was overlooked.

"My attitude remained the same. I was giving 100 per cent in the reserves, but nothing changed. When John Toshack came in I couldn't turn the move down."

Stanley has joined an ever-growing list of former Merseyside players at The Vetch Field. Neil Robinson and Bob Latchford were at Everton at the same time as Stanley. He knows Colin Irwin, the Swansea skipper, from his time at Liverpool.

"I must admit, I felt quite at home from the first day," says Stanley.

"John Toshack has worked hard at getting things right here. I

couldn't get in the team when I first signed, but that was only to be expected, they were doing so well.

"We're well organised, and well disciplined. I don't see Swansea being two-minute wonders. If we don't have something to show from the season in May I know everyone will be upset."

Despite his time out in the cold, Stanley has not lost belief in his own ability.

"I didn't leave Everton thinking I was a bad player just because I couldn't get in the team," he says.

"It was more a question of politics. John Toshack would not have parted with his £150,000 if he didn't think I could do a job for him."

Stanley made a reputation for himself with Chelsea during their Second Division promotion days in 1977. His free-running style from the midfield brought a bag-full of goals. But he scored only once in 52 appearances for Everton.

"Don't forget that I played quite

'ABOUT TIME I WON SOMETHING' SAYS SWANSEA'S GARRY STANLEY

sign new terms offered to him by Howard Kendall at Goodison Park.

"I didn't feel wanted," says Stanley. "It's as simple as that."

"The club toured Japan during the summer and I thought I did quite well. I played in two of the three organised games, but when

Stanley fulfils a defensive duty for Everton to clear from Spurs' Garth Crooks.



a few matches under Gordon Lee at the centre of the defence," says Stanley.

"But I know that's no excuse for the lack of goals. I know people came to expect them of me, and I hope to find my touch again with Swansea."

"I think I lost my confidence to get into the penalty-area at Everton. I don't know why. I can hit a ball with either foot and should have scored more."

Stanley is a very stylish player. A beautiful passer of the ball and it is from the centre of the midfield that he believes he is most effective.

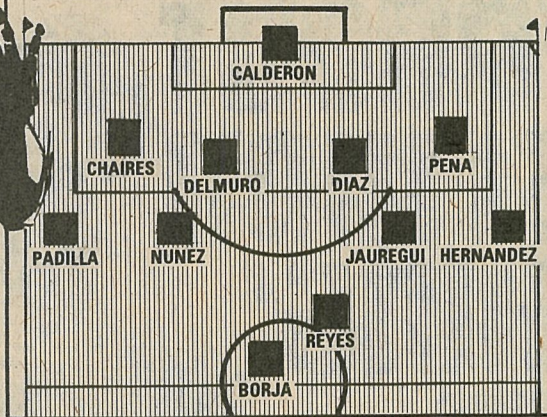
"I can't say that I didn't enjoy my defensive role at Everton, but I like the involvement in midfield. I enjoy having players around me. I believe this is where John Toshack will get the best from me."

But either way, Stanley is not complaining. He is just glad to be playing First Division football again — and he desperately wants something to show for it at the end of the season.

GILLETTE GOALS OF THE CENTURY

Bobby Charlton scored 49 goals for England and none were more valuable than the 30 yarder he lashed home against Mexico in the 1966 World Cup.

England started the competition with an unconvincing 0-0 draw against Uruguay. Their next match was against Mexico who threw up a defensive barricade of four full-backs, two centre-halves and two defensive wing-halves, leaving only Borja and Reyes up front.



With half an hour gone there was no score, which meant that England had played 2 hours of World Cup football without scoring a goal. Then Martin Peters intercepted the ball in mid-field, slipped it on to Roger Hunt who knocked it on to Bobby Charlton standing on the edge of the centre circle. Charlton immediately evaded a Mexican challenge and set off down the middle. England's Greaves and Hunt fanned out wide, taking defenders with them, clearing the path for Charlton's route to goal.

CHARLTON

GREAVES

HUNT

Before the Mexicans realised the danger Charlton, still 30 yards out, let fly with his right foot giving the keeper no chance. This goal proved the springboard to England's World Cup victory, beating West Germany 4-2 in the final after extra time.

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GREAVES and FASHANU MARK II

THE name of Greaves is back in the football headlines, with Danny — son of the legendary Jimmy — making a big impact at Southend.

Yet the Essex Third Division club had no idea of the connection when Danny wrote to them for a trial midway through last season.

His letter made no mention of the fact he was the son of the greatest goalscoring machine English football has ever produced.

Southend found out quite by accident after watching Danny, now 19, in action for the youth team.

After a particular piece of magic, youth coach Frank Banks yelled: "Hey son, that wasn't bad. It reminded me of Jimmy Greaves — you are not related are you?"

Southend could not believe it when Danny mumbled that in fact he was offspring of the great man.

It was typical Greaves junior that he did not trade on his father's name when he wrote to Southend — and Colchester and Charlton — for trials.

He walked out on Tottenham — dad's former club — because he was fed up with taunts about his background and is determined to make it under his own steam.

Dad is happy to let him do that and does not interfere in any way. But he is as proud as punch at the way Danny is developing.

He gets along to watch Danny — named after former Tottenham skipper Danny Blanchflower — every chance he gets and admitted that the lad's first goal for the club gave him more pleasure than any of the 500 he scored in a glittering career with Chelsea, AC Milan, Spurs, West Ham and England.

Comparisons are inevitable —

and very unfair. Jimmy is the first to admit the game is harder to play these days and does not like to see extra pressure put on his son from people who expect the same prodigious goal output from Greaves Mark II.

But even in these early days Jimmy has seen enough to convince him that Danny will make the grade, given time. And Southend boss Dave Smith agrees with that assessment.

"The improvement he has made since coming here is remarkable. If he keeps it up he has every chance of being a success," says Smith.

"I'm very impressed with what I've seen so far. He is taking his chance very well and I'm certainly thinking about improving his terms with us.

"And, playing ability apart, I'm highly impressed with his general attitude as well.

"There's nothing flash about him because of the name he has got and he has his feet firmly on

the ground.

"To be honest he is getting more media attention than I like to see youngsters receiving. But that's inevitable because of who he is. And I must say he is handling it very well, showing a responsible outlook.

"Danny knows that despite his good start there's no guarantee he will stay in the side. I've got a couple of players out with injury and when they are fit there is fierce competition for places.

"But I have to admit he will take some shifting. For there's no doubt in my mind that we have looked that little bit better when he is in."

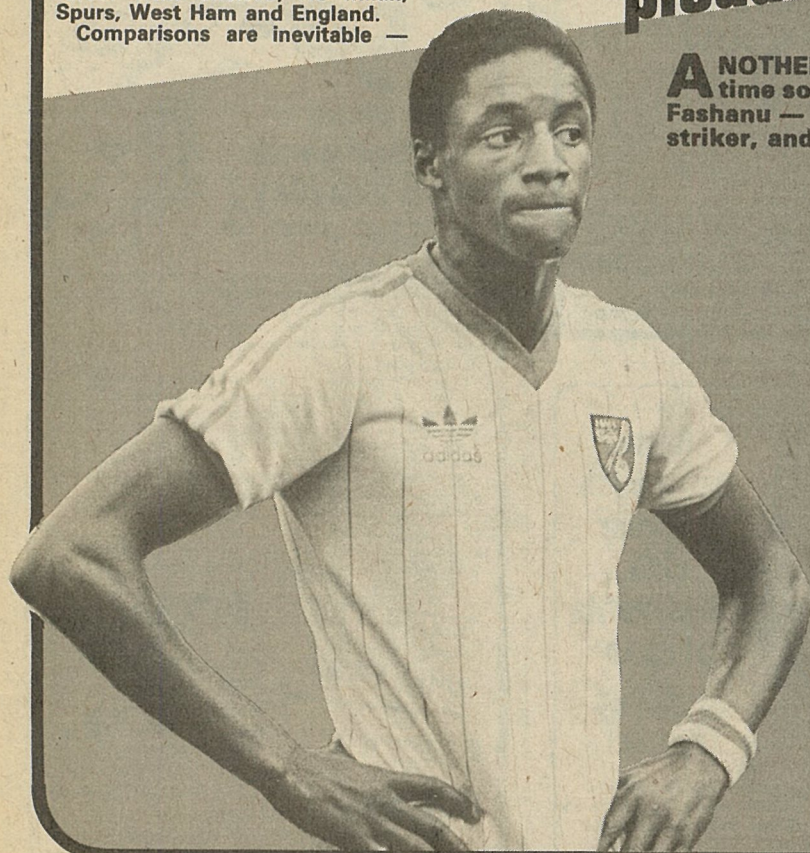
Being an offspring of a player as great as Jimmy Greaves is a heavy burden for Danny to carry. But he shows every sign of doing it well.

With his own ability and dedication it seems the name of Greaves is about to be around the soccer scene for a long time to come.



Don't make comparisons

plead Danny and John



ANOTHER player to burst upon the big time soccer scene recently was John Fashanu — 19-year-old brother of Forest striker, and SHOOT columnist, Justin.

He came on as substitute for Norwich against Shrewsbury for his senior debut — and played a big part in their 2-1 win.

Yet not long ago stepping out to play for Norwich was the last thing on John's mind. For the Carrow Road club turned him away as not being good enough.

His world collapsed when that happened, for Norwich City were the only thing that mattered in his life.

He followed them avidly from the moment big brother Justin joined them and the only ambition he ever had was to pull on the Canaries yellow shirt.

John was heartbroken when told that Norwich did not think he would make the grade and went down the road to try his luck at Cambridge.

He made no more of an impression there and Cambridge released him as well. So rather than sit around idly and do nothing John asked Norwich if he could pass the time away by training with them.

They allowed him to do this, involved him fully — and suddenly

noticed he was improving at a rapid rate.

They took him on an extended trial and he did so well he was signed as a full professional at 17.

His progress this season has been staggering and if he maintains it he could make as big an impression as Justin — who earned Norwich a cool £1m when he signed for Forest in August.

He is actually taller than Justin, but is nowhere near as powerfully built. And that's because he does not share big brother's passion for weight training.

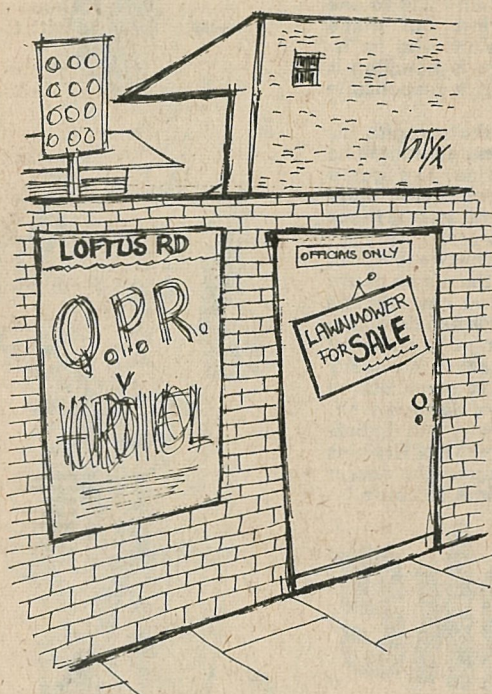
"Justin did not have to be told to work with weights. He loved doing it and used to come in throughout the summer to build his impressive physique," says Norwich chief coach Mel Machin.

"John will do the work we set him with weights — but no more. That's fair enough, for all people are made differently.

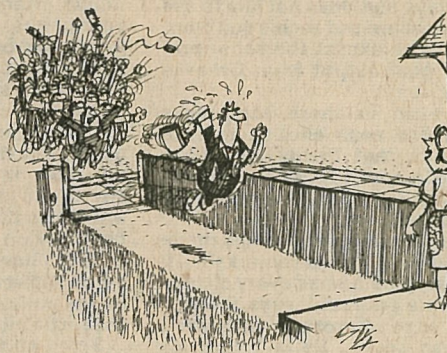
"This apart however the similarity in their general approach to life is astonishing. John is a dead ringer for Justin and I swear they have sat down and planned everything out between them," claims Machin.

"We are delighted with the way he has come on, especially since the start of the season. If he absorbs the things we are trying to teach him he has every chance of becoming a top player."

FOOTBALL FUNNIES



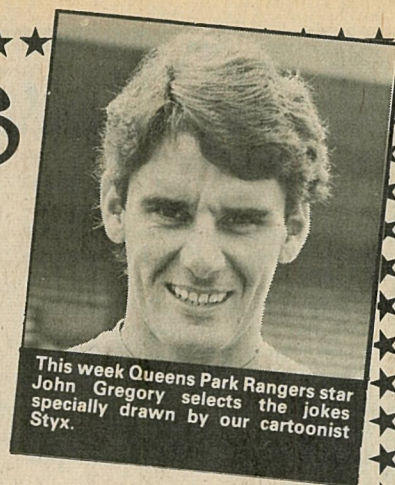
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"And who have you brought home for tea this week, dear?"



"It's a bit much when even the police have got to pay to get in."



This week Queens Park Rangers star John Gregory selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"I must be going soft. They're starting to get up after I tackle 'em now."

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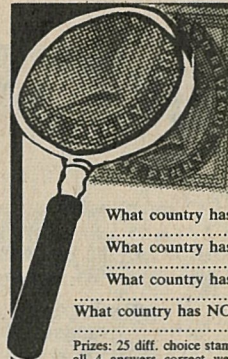
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THE almost spent cigar, its end bearing testimony to the mental rigours of 90 minutes football action, was the only reminder of a past era.

Malcolm Allison's return to the British game for the recent U.E.F.A. Cup-tie at Southampton provided a poignant moment for English football.

Allison, coach to Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon, looked a man light years away from the character who had left English football in such bewilderment and dismay to head for the Continent.

Manchester, its memories, its inclement weather and its triumphs and traumas, seemed a world away.

It was one of football's supreme ironies that Allison needed to do little talking at Southampton.



Southampton's Kevin Keegan is beaten by Sporting's Monteiro Eurico in the U.E.F.A. Cup-tie.

His team did that for him to such an extent that one of the First Division's strongest sides was reduced to tatters inside the first half hour of the match.

But Allison did have much to say about the game in Portugal and, looking back, the state of the English game.

He said: "I am quite happy where I am. I love the weather, I can train every day in the sun. And I like the job and the people at the club.

'Respond'

"It is very different. When you coach abroad, you have to prove you're a good coach otherwise the players won't respond to you.

"You can't get away with it, like people do in England, by concentrating on the physical side. You must work at the real coaching aspects.

"The Sporting players have a lot of ability. I think we showed that at Southampton. How good are they? If we play to our ability, we are as good as about 15 teams in the English First Division."

Allison has coached abroad before, of course, in Turkey. But is the language a problem to an English coach abroad?

"The first few days are always a little difficult," he admits. "But once players start to understand the type of things you want, it is not a problem.

"A lot of Portuguese understand English because it is their second language in schools. I am starting to learn their language, too."

What are the satisfactions of working abroad?

"The weather is a great factor because it gives you so many more opportunities," says Allison.

"You have to win, that is the same everywhere. If you are not successful, you have problems.

"But I enjoy the Continental style of a coach doing what he does best — coaching.

To me, it is the most important part of the game, and the chance to concentrate exclusively on that

are involved."

Allison casts a critical eye upon the European footballing scene from the Portuguese capital.

"West Germany has progressed, it has taken steady steps.

"The Italians have progressed a little bit, too.

"England? They haven't progressed at all. Why? Because there are not enough good teachers in England.

"It is all about teaching the game right through from the youth teams.

"When I look at some of the people working at top class clubs in this country I feel it's a joke.

When I see some youth team coaches, some second team and even some first team coaches, it's a joke because they are pathetic.

Several have no qualifications whatsoever"

Allison refuses to speculate on his length of stay in Portugal.

"I am having a very enjoyable time there, that is all I can say. I don't know what will happen, or for how long I will be with the club. It remains to be seen.

"But I have found one obvious advantage in working abroad to working in England.

"The average foreign player is much more willing to work than the average British player.

"Maybe it is because conditions are better but foreign players seem to enjoy training a lot more than English players.

"They are very receptive to ideas, too, and that is a major difference."

ALLISON SLAMS ENGLISH COACHES

'They are a joke'
says Big Mal,
now manager of
Sporting Lisbon

aspect is far better. It helps not having to worry about other parts of the game, and other matters in the club.

"I have a financial adviser and an accountant who look after the financial aspect. It is a far more sensible system, and it will come in here.

"It is the hardest time ever in the history of the game for managers. To ask them to handle the financial aspect, too, is absurd. They should concentrate on the game and that alone.

"Of course, some of them are not capable of concentrating on the game and the coaching aspect, so it's a good excuse for them to say they have too much else to do.

"But the demands of the two jobs make it imperative two men



Tottenham's suspect defence gets vote

WILL Spurs defence deny them further honours this season? The question seems to hold the key to hopes of more success for one of Britain's most entertaining, attack-minded sides.

Tottenham's F.A. Cup Final win delighted not merely White Hart Lane supporters, but many football purists as well. The artistry of men like Ardiles, Villa, Hoddle and Archibald had been rewarded; proving, perhaps, that it IS possible to entertain and be successful, contrary to some beliefs.

But winning the F.A. Cup is not the criterion of a side's quality. The League Championship title, a marathon not a sprint, is the true test of quality.

Can Tottenham win the title and prove their much maligned defence IS good enough to survive at the top?

Tottenham star Paul Miller shrugged off criticism of Spurs' defence in SHOOT's October 31st issue.

West Ham winger Jimmy Neighbour, once a Tottenham player, helped torment his old club when Hammers went to White Hart Lane early in the season.

Neighbour played a crucial part in helping them to a humiliating 4-0 win over injury-hit Tottenham. David Cross scored all four goals but what did Neighbour think of the Spurs defence?

"It was hard to judge on that performance. They were without a few important players and struggled badly. But since those injured men came back, they've done much better. I know many believe the Spurs defence is vulnerable.

But perhaps they proved otherwise in more recent matches.

"I don't think their defence is as bad as some people make out. But Tottenham must remember that every player in the side must defend when opponents have the ball. I had to learn that at West Ham and I admit it was hard."

Neighbour believes Ray Clemence will prove his worth to Tottenham.

"He was worth ten points to Liverpool and that won't change now. I think he is a great goalkeeper."

"It always takes new players time to settle and Ray needed time. But Tottenham have a lot of good players, not only when they go forward.

'Honours'

"I don't think their defence will cost them honours they might win, even if it isn't as strong as the attack."

Aston Villa were another side to win at White Hart Lane early in the season. Scottish defender Allan Evans says: "Tottenham were struggling when we beat them. The whole team lacked confidence and the defence didn't help restore much confidence."

"But I agree with Jimmy Neighbour — I have never believed the Spurs defence was as bad as people said. Players at the back like Roberts and Miller are not overpowering defenders, and maybe that's why people think they're weak in that department."

"There is no Gordon McQueen or Dave Watson type of commanding figure. So perhaps they look suspect in the air but, nevertheless, I reckon they will do well this

season.

"I don't see why they should not win honours, even if the defence isn't as cast-iron in strength as it could be. I have always rated Paul Price, the former Luton defender, and he will improve them when he finally returns from injury."

"Tottenham's game is geared to going forward and any side with that policy will do well. You must score goals to win trophies and Spurs score plenty of goals."

"They have proved they are good enough at the back now the defence has started to concentrate throughout a match. That's the test for defenders in a side like Tottenham's — they must keep concentrating at the back, when the pressure is off. That's the key to Spurs' chances."

And a Spurs viewpoint? Defender Graham Roberts admits: "We didn't start too well, did we? But Ray Clemence has settled down now and adapted to the way we play. It was hard for him at first and we weren't certain what was happening."

"Ray has proved to people who criticised him that he is still world class. And I believe the run of clean sheets we have kept has proved what we always felt — we COULD do it."

"Now we know that, and now Ray is settling into his best form behind us, I reckon we can scotch suggestions that the defence is the weak link. I don't think our defence will cost us the chance of winning trophies this season."

Paul Miller, Graham Roberts, Ray Clemence and Chris Hughton combine to crowd out Manchester United's Steve Coppell at White Hart Lane.

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MANCHESTER United
... Tottenham ...
Ipswich ... Forest ...
Liverpool ... and Aston
Villa — they're the six teams
I expect to be the main
challengers for the title this
season.

With a third of the season
completed the race is still
very open, although two or
three could pull away from
the pack after Christmas.

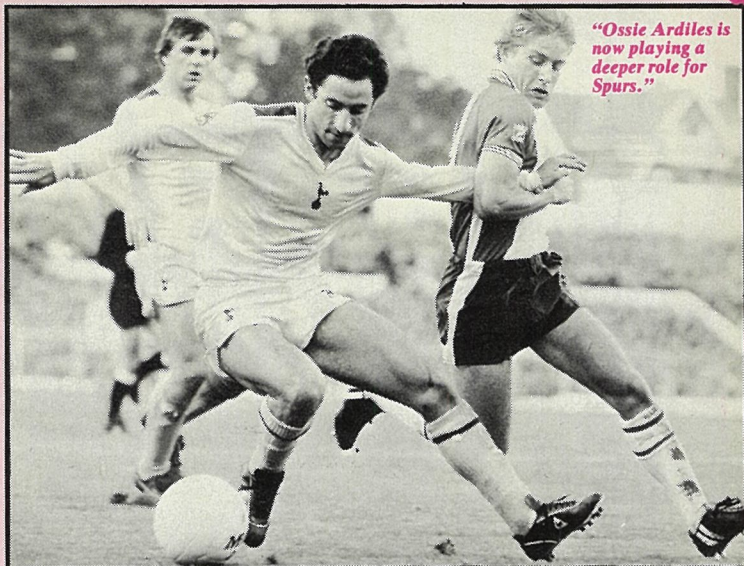
Two of those clubs meet at
White Hart Lane this Saturday —
Spurs and United. We've already
met twice this season in the
League Cup, with Spurs winning
1-0 on both occasions.

They probably just about
deserved to beat us and I must say
they looked a completely different
side from the one I helped West
Bromwich Albion do the
double over in 1980/81.

Spurs are far more solid
these days. There's a better
balance in the team and
they have a good chance of
adding the Championship to
the F.A. Cup they won last
May.

Steve Archibald said in
SHOOT that he couldn't
imagine playing with better
players in the midfield behind
him and if you twisted my arm
I'd have to agree that the Tot-
tenham midfield is the most
skilful in the League.

We're only a whisker behind,



"Ossie Ardiles is
now playing a
deeper role for
Spurs."

mind you, but Spurs have changed
their midfield around a little this
season to good effect.

Ossie Ardiles is playing slightly
deeper 'holding' the middle of the
park. Previously I felt Spurs threw
too many men forward at the
same time, which left them
exposed at the back.

When people talk about a poor
defence, they often just put the
blame on the back-four. But it's up
to the midfield players to do their
share of tackling to take the
pressure off the defence.

Ray Clemence has been a
steadying influence on the Spurs

same number of international
games, although if I've managed
to establish myself I believe it's
been easier for me because of the
way I play.

For Spurs, Glenn is bristling with
confidence. For England, he is
more inhibited and doesn't
express himself in quite the same
way. People expect him to go out
for England, control the game and
score a couple of brilliant goals —
it isn't as easy as that.

My advice to Glenn would be to
forget everything when he plays
for England and not worry — then
he may show consistently the
form he shows for Spurs.

I'm not expected to score unbe-
lievable goals, so the spotlight is
off me. My job is more to break
up attacks, stay deep when neces-
sary and get forward when I can.

I hope Tony Galvin decides to
play for England rather than the
Republic of Ireland because he is a
very underrated player who gave
United a lot of problems in the
League Cup, especially at Old Traf-
ford.

Faith

A few years ago Spurs were
relegated, yet they kept faith with
manager Keith Burkinshaw and
the club have been handsomely
rewarded.

I think the League match this
Saturday will be a better game
than the League Cup-tie, which
Spurs won 1-0. Both teams were
wary of each other and it wasn't
much of a spectacle.

It was my debut for United,
although I didn't feel nervous,
neither did I when I made my
League debut at Maine Road. It
was different when I played at Old
Trafford for the first time as a
United player — but the fans have
been marvellous to me. It's very
difficult to explain exactly how
much they help the players.

Running out for a home game
knowing so many people are on
your side is a tremendous boost
and there will be thousands at
White Hart Lane this weekend to
cheer us on, too.

I hope we can reward them with
three points.

'SPURS' MIDFIELD THE MOST SKILFUL IN THE LEAGUE'



**BRYAN
ROBSON**

Writes for you

Bryan Robson

side. I noticed in the League Cup-
ties how he was always shouting
and telling his defence what to do.

This has particularly helped the
two centre-backs Graham Roberts
and Paul Miller. The pair stick to
the basics, not trying anything
fancy. When they've won the ball
they immediately look to find
Ossie or Glenn Hoddle.

I go along with the theory that
you need a great goalie to win the
League. You're lucky if you can get
away with an 'ordinary' keeper.

Ray's presence was underlined
in the recent League match at
Southampton, when he saved a
Kevin Keegan penalty in the last
few minutes. As his team-mates
rushed to congratulate him Ray
yelled at them to go away and
concentrate on the corner.

That's the sort of profession-
alism he's brought to Spurs, who
went on to win 2-1 at The Dell.

Glenn Hoddle may not be a regu-
lar in the England side, but I feel
it's just a matter of time. Glenn
and I have played roughly the

Glenn Hoddle

**Super
Focus**

PETER BARNES

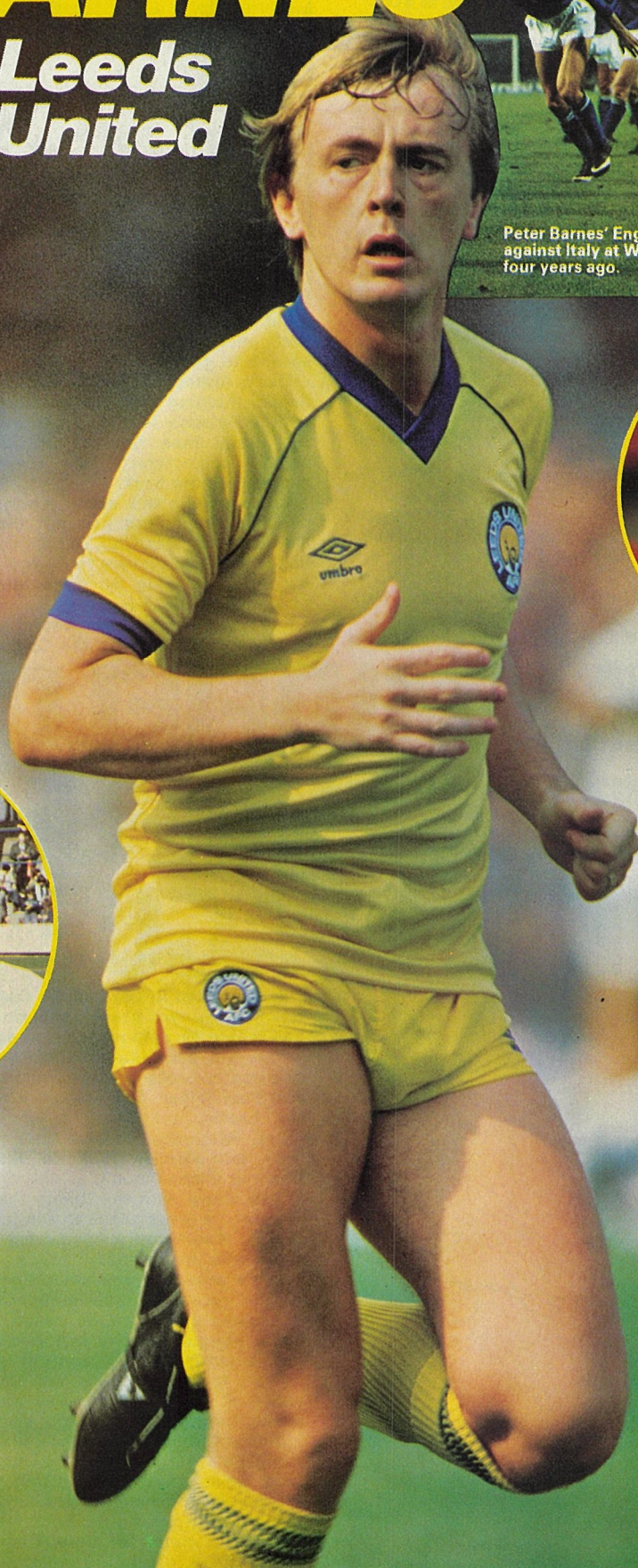
**Leeds
United**

FULL NAME: Peter Simon Barnes
BIRTHPLACE: Manchester
BIRTHDATE: June 10, 1957
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 11st 7lbs
MARRIED: Yes, to Alison
CHILDREN: No, but I have a beautiful Doberman Pincher, Heidi
CAR: Datsun
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Manchester City, WBA
JOB OR TRADE BEFORE: None
TURNING PRO: None
NICKNAME: Barnsey
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mail
FAVOURITE PLAYER: George Best
A PLAYER FOR THE FUTURE: Terry Connor (Leeds)
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Barcelona
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: George Best, Denis Law, Colin Bell, Mike Summerbee, Francis Lee.



Terry Connor (Leeds)

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf, tennis, riding
OTHER SPORTS PERSON YOU MOST ADMIRE: Harvey Smith — good character
YOUR BEST EVER ALL-TIME XI: Banks, Wilson, Beckenbauer, J. Charlton, Cooper, di Stefano, Hartford, Kempes, Law, B. Charlton, Best.
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My England debut v Italy, November 1977
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: None to date
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Manchester City
BEST STADIUM PLAYED IN: Olympic Stadium, Munich



Peter Barnes' England debut against Italy at Wembley four years ago.



Harvey Smith

FAVOURITE FOOD AND DRINK: Salads, steak, fish. Orange juice, milk
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES . . .
DISLIKES: Winning, taking Heidi for walks . . . Smoking, washing-up
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Christopher Cross, Frank Sinatra, Fleetwood Mac, Beatles
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Paul Newman, Sophia Loren
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Jamaica
FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Coronation Street
BEST FILM SEEN RECENTLY: Tribute (Jack Lemmon)
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Shopping, resting, seeing friends
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Mum and dad for their support and help in early years
SUPERSTITIONS: None
PRE-MATCH MEAL: Chicken
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: 20 full England caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be remembered in football
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Go into selling cars with my father-in-law
CAREER AFTER PLAYING: Don't know yet
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Pele

Peter Barnes

SHOOT!